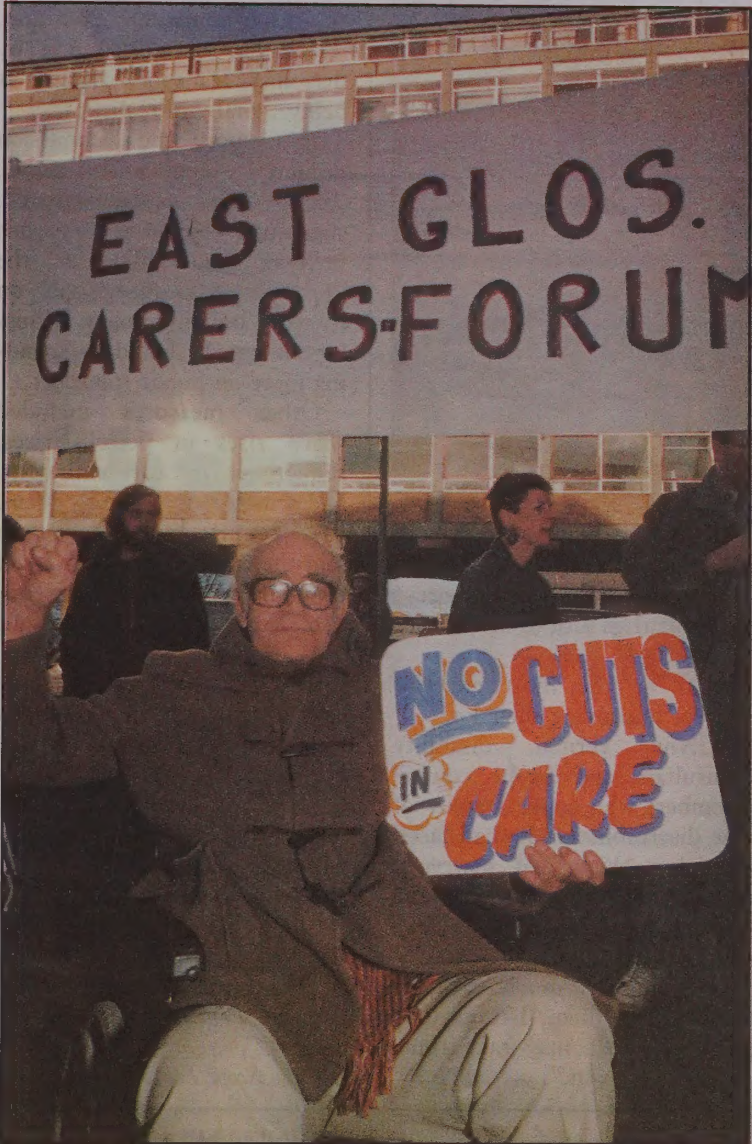


# Disability Now

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Derek Vizor protesting against council cuts in Gloucester  
GLOUCESTER CITIZEN

## Councils in community care crisis

Community care is in crisis with local authorities cutting services because they are running out of money.

Gloucestershire county council, whose care programme is £3.8 million in the red, can provide emergency care only to people "at immediate physical risk". More than 250 elderly and disabled people demonstrated outside Shire Hall last month in protest.

One of the protesters, John Gilbert, who is visually impaired, said: "I have had my home care reduced from three hours a week to just 15 minutes. There are hundreds of others who have had their services withdrawn. It's a disgrace."

Derek Vizor, chairperson the Gloucester Disability Equality Group, is seeking a judicial review of the council's decision to cut services. He said: "I am very angry. The cuts mean vulnerable people are being left at risk."

Isle of Wight county council announced last month that no new contracts could be signed because its community care cash had dried up five months early. The island can only pro-

vide an emergency service for people with "the greatest needs".

The crisis has meant elderly patients who would have been discharged into the community are having to stay put, preventing new patients from being admitted. Local hospitals have warned that people will die unless beds can be unblocked to accommodate emergencies.

Devon county council is considering similar cuts. A spokesperson said: "It is likely that we will only be able to provide services for our most vulnerable clients." East Sussex, Essex and Cleveland also face funding difficulties.

Councils have tried to relieve the situation by transferring cash from other departments - Gloucestershire £700,000 and the Isle of Wight £122,000.

The councils blame the crisis on the Government's decision to change its special transitional grant (STG) formula.

Previously based on numbers  
*Continued page 2*

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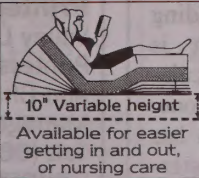
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## Charity changes its name

The UK's largest disability charity, The Spastics Society, changed its name to Scope on 3 November.

### SCOPE

FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

It was an acknowledgment that the word "spastic" had become a term of abuse to many people with cerebral palsy and was hampering the charity in its campaign to end discrimination against all disabled people.

The relaunch at the House of Commons attracted influential guests, including Minister for Disabled People William Hague, who brought a message of support from the Prime Minister.

*Continued on page 2*

## New disability bill

The Government tried to stem mounting calls for civil rights legislation by including a limited anti-discrimination bill in the Queen's Speech on 16 November.

At about the same time, Scope, formerly The Spastics Society, published a survey showing that 70 per cent of MPs polled, and nearly half the Tory MPs polled, support comprehensive civil rights legislation for disabled people.

The Department of Social Security confirmed that the bill will be introduced soon. It is expected by December.

DN understands that the bill will include measures to improve access on private and public transport, and in schools and colleges. There will be legal obligations on vehicle manufacturers, including buses.

Discrimination will be policed by industrial tribunals, with disabled people able to claim compensation against employers, though smaller firms are expected to be exempted.

Alan Howarth, Tory MP for Stratford-upon-Avon, welcomed the fact that there would be legislation, guided through Parliament by Minister for Disabled People William Hague.

*Continued on page 2*



## Direct payments coming

Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley indicated that disabled people are to be given grants to buy their own care services instead of having them arranged by local government.

Speaking at the annual social services conference in Harrogate, Mrs Bottomley said her heart was warming to the idea.

An announcement is expected by December, to lead to legislation by the end of 1995.

She said: "Direct payments fit in well with our general philosophy of increasing choice."

Direct grants would enable disabled people to shop around for services within the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Pauline Thompson, director of the Disablement Income Group, said: "This is very good news and not a moment too soon. It would give disabled people more control over their lives."

## Top marks

Miranda Brackenbury, a second-year student nurse at Lothian College of Health Studies in Edinburgh, was joint winner in the annual award of the RCN's Association of Nursing Students.

Ms Brackenbury, who has cerebral palsy, said she would use the £1,000 first prize to visit Australia.



Celebration: Peter McDonald of Scope and Britain's biggest flag, unfurled down St Thomas' hospital in London NIC PATON

### Charity gets new name

*Continued from page 1*

*Disabled in Britain: A World Apart*, the first national survey to reveal how disabled people view their lives, was published on the same day.

Many of the 1,500 respondents felt isolated by prejudice, lack of access, discrimination over jobs and inappropriate services. Most thought anti-discrimination legislation

would be the most effective way of improving their lot.

Glynn Vernon, disability consultant and Scope council member, who spoke frankly of the discrimination he had faced in job seeking and marriage, thought the relaunch and the survey would impress the Government.

"There's so much pressure building on them, I think they will listen. It may take time, but we will win."

## 'Use taxis' call to cut pollution

Disabled people should use taxis instead of their cars to help cut environmental pollution.

This is one of the suggestions of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which has been slammed by disability transport groups as being "totally unrealistic".

In October, the commission produced a report to Parliament, *Transport and the Environment*\*, suggesting measures to curb pollution and calling on the Government to change tack on its roads building policy. Ministers, it urged, should be spending more on public transport.

Other measures included sharp rises in petrol prices, reductions in car emissions, and a motorway tolling system.

A commission spokesperson said the authors had been aware of the needs of disabled drivers.

Tory MP Sir John Hannam, co-chairman of the All Party Disablement Group, agreed. He will not be seeking re-election in two years' time. "My objective is to see anti-discrimination legislation firmly on the statute book before I go."

*Disabled in Britain*, £4.95 from Scope's Campaigns Dept, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

See also *Scope For You* in DN.

"We are interested in getting everyone out of their cars and on to public transport. It may be a question of persuading disabled people, where appropriate, to use taxis."

But the suggestion has been condemned by Doug Campbell, treasurer of the Disabled Drivers' Association.

"Taxis are very expensive, not available immediately, and unsuitable for all disabled people. It is fine for the commission to talk about integrated public transport, but it will not be door-to-door. The only solution for personal mobility for disabled people is the car."

He said disabled people would need to be fully compensated by the Government for any hike in petrol prices.

A National Asthma Campaign spokesperson said: "It is good that the Government is taking notice of air pollution. We have been calling for an integrated transport policy for some time."

\* £26.60, HMSO Publications, tel: 071-873 9090.



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\* Higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance.

### Disability bill

*continued from page 1*

"I would like to be able to support him and the Government, but we have to have a bill that is worth it."

He felt it might be easier for MPs to get amendments into the Government's bill than to push for a private member's bill.

The Scope survey, of 100 cross-representative MPs, follows the charity's *Disabled in Britain* survey. Nearly half the MPs polled, and 29 per cent of the Tory MPs, said measures in the original Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill should be implemented in a realistic timetable.

### Community care crisis

*continued from page 1*

of independent care home beds plus the standard spending assessment (SSA), which is based on population, the calculation is now based on SSA alone.

As a result, £3.8 million has been sliced off Gloucestershire's grant and £22.2 million off the Isle of Wight's funding. Devon was cut by £8.6 million.

Gloucestershire's director of social services Deryk Mead said: "If we had been given the money we had been promised, we would not have these problems now."

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**Editor** Mary Wilkinson

**Assistant Editor**

Nic Paton

**Reporter** Tim Russell

**Editorial/Production**

**Assistant**

Sarah Rigby

**Editorial**

**Assistant/Secretary**

Nazli Hussain

**Subscriptions**

**Manager** Karen Bresloff

**Assistant**

Helen Crow

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BUSINESS PRESS



### Christmas cheer

A Christmas shopping guide for blind and visually impaired people has been produced by Boots. The guide is available on tape and braille and is thought to be the first published by a high street retailer.

### Young inventor

Sarah Tudball, a student from Blackwood, Gwent, is the Young Inventor of the Year, winning a prize of £10,000. She developed a telephone handgrip for people with arthritis.

### In the mood ...

A disabled man was banned from driving for six months in October after being caught without tax, insurance or a licence. Baron Kelly, from Farnborough, Hampshire, was also in possession of cannabis, which he said was to keep him calm and prevent mood swings.



Liam Braidner and mum  
BELFAST TELEGRAPH NEWSPAPERS

### Family appeal

It costs Marianne and Mark Braidner from east Belfast £1,200 a month for Liam, who has cerebral palsy, to have conductive education sessions at the Swallow Trust in Donaghadee. So they organised a public meeting, hoping to form a fundraising committee. Only two people came. Media coverage brought donations and promises to cover the next two months. "But what do we do then?" asked Marianne. Tel: (0232) 655845.

### Bromley blunder

A severely disabled woman was left soaking in urine for 24 hours last month, after council care went wrong. Pamela Allen, who has multiple sclerosis, was supposed to have four daily care visits, organised by Bromley council. But she was left alone in the care of her 85-year-old mother. Bromley has apologised and is investigating.

### What's in DN next month?

\* New Year: new you, new us. DN and a reader both get new looks, plus diet and exercise ideas

\* Holidays special, five pages to inspire and inform you

... plus complementary therapy, hobbies, news – and jobs!



Art attack: Jane Nation, from Brent Disabled Action Network, lighted a sparkler outside the Tate Gallery, London last month. The group was protesting about poor access. MALCOLM WATSON

## Charities fear lottery will cut donations

Charity fundraisers have warned that the National Lottery, launched on 14 November, will cost them between £190 million and £270 million a year in lost donations.

Camelot, the consortium selected to run the lottery, has said 28p in each pound will go to charities, the arts, sports and the National Heritage and Millennium funds. This means the National Lottery Board (NLB) will have about £100 million to distribute to some 700,000 organisations next year.

But the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers (ICFM) has complained to the Advertising Standards Authority that advertisements for the lottery are misleading and might encourage people to stop

donating to charities and buy lottery tickets instead.

ICFM director Stephen Lee thinks the advertisements blur the distinction between gambling and charitable giving and try deliberately to portray the lottery as a form of charitable donation.

Mr Lee said: "This is not a lottery for good causes. If people want to help needy causes, then giving direct to charity is far more effective. We were led to believe the lottery would be promoted primarily as a fun activity, not as a means of supporting charities."

Dr Leslie Griffiths, president of the Methodist Conference, joined in the criticism. He has urged a boycott of the lottery, claiming it will soak up money that the public

gives to voluntary groups.

Lord Snowdon, speaking at the British Gas ADAPT awards, warned: "Government assurances that lottery funds will be used for disabled people's access will be quite worthless unless all applications are strictly monitored."

NLB chairperson David Sieff is unhappy about the adverts. "I know we want the hype and feel-good factor, but I would have played it down." The board will start making grants in late 1995.

## Social justice for all

A major new report offers a blueprint for the social and economic renewal of Britain and suggests ways in which the barriers faced by disabled people and their carers can be overcome.

The independent Commission on Social Justice, instigated by Labour leader John Smith in 1992, numbers among its 16 members Bert Massie, director of the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation.

On employment, for example, the commission argues that "discrimination is not only immoral; it is bad economics" – a waste of human resources.

It calls for a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (to include employment, education, access to goods and services, and age) enforced by one human rights commission that would cover race, gender and disability.

The commission says social security benefits are more important for disabled people than other adults because so many are unemployed.

It backs the idea of a comprehensive disability income which compensates for added expenses and loss of earnings, but admits "there is no consensus on how to introduce such a reform".

Carers should be included within a new, overall, social insurance scheme. Insurance would help replace job earnings, and entitlement would not depend on the benefits status of the person cared for.

"The financial needs of disabled people must be addressed by any government committed to social justice," says the report.

*Social Justice: Strategies for National Renewal, £6.99, Vintage.*

## Portillo u-turn on suppliers

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo has bowed to pressure from MPs, the European Union and disability groups to reintroduce a priority suppliers system to help disabled workers.

The original Priority Suppliers Scheme was scrapped by Mr Portillo in the summer (DN September).

He claimed that a new European directive on competition made it illegal, but now concedes that a system is needed.

The scheme meant that more than 200 firms which employ disabled people could get favoured consideration from the Government when it was awarding contracts.

The new version of the scheme is likely to set an upper limit of £67,000 for contracts.

Remploy, which employs 8,700 disabled people in 95 factories, is one firm affected. Chief executive Tony Withey said: "It's good news for Remploy, and good news for Remploy workers."

But he pointed out that many of the Remploy contracts are above £67,000.

## Cards warning

Labour consumer spokesman Nigel Griffiths urged MPs to change the law last month to ensure charities get more money from the sale of Christmas cards.

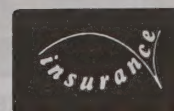
Some charities only get 5p in the pound. Mr Griffiths wants to see the figure nearer 80p.

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DN12/94



# Queen's Speech 'shortchanges'

Nic Paton reports

This year's Queen's Speech left disabled people with mixed emotions, happy that the Government had finally recognised the need for anti-discrimination legislation (see page 1), but unhappy at its limited scope.

Fred Heddell, chief executive of Mencap, said people with learning difficulties had been "shortchanged" by the limited scope of proposed legislation.

Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Organisations for Disabled People, said: "It is good, to a point, that the Government has recognised that we do need legislation. But I am doubtful that any legislation based on the consultation document will fully address discrimination."

Vicky Scott, of the umbrella group Rights Now, said it was a "massively missed opportunity", while the Disability Alliance said it was worried how legislation would be enforced.

Labour leader Tony Blair acknowledged disabled people's anger over the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill and called for any new legislation to be "implemented properly".

Liberal Democrat Social Security and Disability Spokesperson Liz Lynne called it a "no hope" speech.

Apart from the disability bill, legislation was proposed to

equalise the state pension age for men and women at 65.

Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs at Help the Aged said: "We have precious little evidence that there are that many jobs for people over 60."

"This might just mean more people in their late fifties and early sixties will be claiming income support."

The National Health Service remained under the spotlight, with a pledge to "make further improvements" to management.

Rude or incompetent GPs could face disciplinary action under plans to give more powers to their regulatory body, the General Medical Council.

The Government tacitly acknowledged the criticism of its care in the community programme by saying it would make further provision for people with "a serious mental disorder who had been discharged from hospital to be cared for under supervision".

Mental health charity MIND national director Judi Clements said: "Proposals for new powers infringe civil liberties, divert attention from failures in the system, and imply blame rests with people who are already burdened by distress, stigma and lack of positive support."

In what commentators felt was a sparse and lacklustre speech, one of the few radical changes was Peter Lilley's shake-up of unemployment benefits (see below).



At No 10: Sir Richard Attenborough slammed Government estimates that it will cost an extra £70 million to provide indoor/outdoor powered wheelchairs on the National Health Service as "palpable nonsense" last month. He was presenting a petition of 100,000 signatures to Number 10 urging funding, organised by the Muscular Dystrophy Group, of which he is president.

BRENT MOORE

## Advice on badges

Local authorities can take a "fairly broad view" of rules that require people to be permanently disabled before they can qualify for an orange badge, said Transport Minister John Watts in October. He was responding to a question that people waiting for hip replacements are effectively permanently disabled until surgery takes place.

## New Berry bill

Kingswood MP Roger Berry presented a 10-minute-rule bill to the Commons last month on the consultation process for any legislation for disabled people. The bill highlighted the need for a process to be set down and for rules on the way cost estimates are calculated.

## Lords debate care

The Lords debated day care provision for adults with learning difficulties in October. Lord Rix, president of Mencap, urged ministers to recognise the importance of high-quality, integrated care. Baroness Cumberlege said the Government continued to evaluate its schemes.

# Labour's double whammy

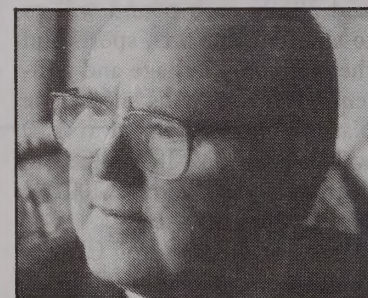
The Labour Party has raised its profile on disability issues by appointing two new opposition spokespeople on disabled people's rights.

Tom Clarke, MP for Monklands West, and Robin Corbett, MP for Erdington, outside Birmingham, were appointed by Labour leader Tony Blair in his autumn reshuffle.

Mr Clarke, who will be the senior partner of the two, is best known as the author and pilot of the 1986 Disabled Persons (Services Representation and Consultation) Act.

Mr Corbett has no track record on disability issues, but was formerly on the Commons Home Affairs Committee.

Mr Clarke told DN: "Robin and I will work as a team."



Tom Clarke: senior partner

There are some issues we shall divide, but we have yet to agree a demarcation."

He expects a new bill on disabled people's rights to emerge once the ballot on private members bills, held at the end of November, has been drawn. He has written to all Labour MPs urging them to propose such a bill if they are chosen.

"I don't see this as a right/left issue. I prefer to see it as a right, wrong issue."

"I think the Government has been wrong thirteen times. Their behaviour in the last session was absolutely despicable and unworthy of Parliament."

The duo replaces Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, who was criticised by disability groups for his low-key approach.

\* The Liberal Democrats front bench was also reshuffled during the summer recess. Liz Lynne, MP for Rochdale, takes over as Spokesperson for Social Security and Disability. She swaps with Archy Kirkwood, MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, who moves to community care.

# Lilley jobs scheme

Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley's plan to replace unemployment benefit and income support for unemployed people with a "job seeker's allowance" received the go-ahead in the Queen's Speech this month.

Central to the scheme is a "back to work bonus" offering job seekers credits for part-time earnings, to be cashed in when they stop claiming benefits.

But people will now only be able to draw benefits for six months, instead of a year.

Disabled people on invalidity benefit who are "found capable

of work" under the new incapacity benefit medical test will be eligible for the job seekers allowance, said Mr Lilley.

They would then have to find work in a discriminatory workplace or face being penalised after six months.

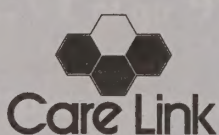
Lorna Reith, director of the Disability Alliance, said: "Our worry is that people will end up falling between two stools - not disabled enough to qualify for incapacity benefit, but ruled out of qualifying for job seeker's allowance because of their disability."

# Scott speaks up

Nicholas Scott made his first speech to Parliament in October, since being sacked as Minister for Disabled People in the summer.

He steered clear of disabled people's rights, but said he was relieved to be able to use his backbench position to speak more freely.

He concentrated on health provision for London and the discharge of mental health survivors into the community. Many ended up on the capital's streets, placing hospitals under an "extra burden", he said.



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## RNID under pressure on deaf boss

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) is under increasing pressure to appoint a deaf chief executive, following the departure of Stuart Etherington to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

A campaign by deaf people led to public protests at the institute's annual general meeting in October.

About 60 demonstrators claimed that only 5 per cent of RNID employees were deaf, figures the RNID disputes.

And the British Deaf Association (BDA) has now advertised for a deaf person to fill its chief executive slot, which is also vacant.

Campaigners said the BDA move was a victory for "user power" or the process of letting disabled people run their own organisations.

The RNID is currently shortlisting for its top job.



Reading the runes: Robert Powell, who is visually impaired, and his mother Sharon White, operations manager for Stonehenge, have developed braille and large-print guides for visitors to the historic site. Guides are also planned for Tintagel, Pendennis and Old Sarum.

ENGLISH HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY

## Improve chair safety, urge stranded Scots

Disabled Scots are campaigning to improve standards of National Health Service powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs after a series of failures left people stranded and one person requiring hospital treatment.

The Strathclyde Disabled Forum and the Clydebank Disabled Forum have been gathering evidence of cases in which chairs have repeatedly broken down, leaving their occupants stranded and sometimes in dangerous situations.

Margaret Morrison, secretary of the Clydebank Forum, has had to have her wheelchair repaired four times and has been repeatedly left stranded.

"I need to be able to rely on my wheelchair. I had to complain and complain to the hospital."

Her chair, only delivered in

March 1993, has had the gearbox changed four times and the wheel castors have buckled.

Irene Galloway, secretary of the Strathclyde Forum, suffered a dislocated thumb and bruises last year when her wheelchair went out of control, coming off a pavement. She subsequently needed hospital treatment.

In another case, a chair broke down in its occupant's hall when she was alone in the house. It was several hours before she was rescued by a family member.

Nearly 500 of the battery-powered Spirit wheelchairs, each worth £1,500, have been distributed on the NHS since 1992 through Glasgow's Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre at the Belvedere Hospital.

The chairs are manufactured by Sunrise Medical. Dealer Stuart Munroe said the inci-

dents had been fully investigated and that no problems had been found with the chairs. But users had to be aware of wear and tear, he added.

"It is like using a car. Tyres and other parts do sometimes wear out."

The Belvedere Hospital is administered by the Southern General Hospital NHS Trust. A spokesperson for the hospital said they had had no problems with the chairs. They had also just negotiated a new two-year deal with Sunrise Medical.

Mrs Morrison now has a replacement wheelchair.

Powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs are not available on the NHS south of the border because the Government claims it would be too expensive.

Campaigners are urging the Government to change its mind (picture, page 4).

## Ex-services home shuts

A home for blind ex-service-men and women is to close just four months after an appeal for funds to improve it.

The St Dunstan's charity will close its Pearson House in Kemp Town, Brighton, in April.

In August an appeal by former Welsh rugby international Cliff Morgan raised £5,000, but this was not enough.

The home is one of two the charity owns. It also owns 530 houses around the country.

Ray Hazan, spokesperson for St Dunstan's, said the recession had cut donations and legacy income had dropped.

St Dunstan's currently has a £2 million annual deficit.

"As the ex-World War Two population gets older, costs obviously go up," he said.

The 11 permanent and 30 day care regulars will be moved to St Dunstan's Ian Fraser Home, in nearby Ovingdean, which was used mainly as a holiday home.

This would also mean the end of subsidised holidays for residents, said Mr Hazan.

St Dunstan's is consulting the Charities Commission on what to do with the appeal cash.

\* The Royal British Legion recently reported a £2.8 million deficit, which it is feared will affect the charity's convalescent and residential homes. It will be relaunching next year in an effort to raise its profile.

## Welsh campaign

The Welsh Deaf Broadcasting Council is writing to all Welsh MPs urging their help in getting the main Welsh-language news programme "Newyddion" subtitled.

The council says it wants to resolve the dispute with the BBC Wales and Welsh channel S4C, which has been running for a decade, "once and for all". The subtitles will be in English.

## Disabled model to be sued by police

Heather Mills, the model disabled after being run down by a police motorcyclist (DN April), is being sued by the officer over allegations she made to the press following the accident.

The motorcyclist has since been cleared by the courts of dangerous driving.



Mills: faces court battle

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## New deal on car insurance

Two of Britain's largest insurance firms are to offer a better deal for disabled motorists.

Norwich Union and Provincial are reassessing how they charge disabled drivers for their insurance.

The moves come just two months after disability groups lobbied insurers to end discrimination against disabled people (DN October).

Drivers with Norwich Union who have one medical condition or disability, who have told the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), and not made any claim in the last three years, will now be able to get insurance at standard rates.

Research by the company showed that the extra cash gained from weighting premiums was sometimes outweighed by the cost of calculating and assessing the special rates.

The company also found that disabled drivers were not significantly more likely to claim on insurance than other comparable drivers.

Provincial said it was also prepared to offer cover where none might have been available before. Some drivers could get cover at normal rates.

However, the company denied that the move had come about as a result of pressure from disability groups.

The Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA) welcomed the move. Executive director Mike Bruton said: "Our policy has always been that insurance companies should take on board what the DVLA says about a driver and accept that. It now seems they are following that road."

The DDA had called for more education and openness by insurance firms in its response to the Government's disability-consultation document, he said.

\* A holiday insurance package tailored to cover children with disabilities has been launched by Kent-based firm Our Way. Tel: 081-313 3900.



# Clarke urged to freeze VAT on fuel

Two disability groups have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, urging him to freeze VAT on domestic fuel at eight per cent.

Disability Alliance (DA), an umbrella group of more than 200 voluntary groups, and the Disablement Income Group (DIG) have warned Mr Clarke that thousands of elderly and disabled people will suffer financial hardship if he goes ahead and increases VAT to 17.5 per cent next April.

DA director Lorna Reith said: "VAT on fuel has already caused severe financial difficulties for disabled people who have higher than average fuel costs. We are urging the Chancellor to freeze the current figure so that disabled people do not have to put their health at risk by cutting back on heat or food."

The two charities are also concerned that the Government's VAT compensation package, introduced last November, fails to provide help for people on Disability Living Allowance. They want Mr Clarke to introduce a higher



"It's a shame we can't afford bigger wattage fairy lights - they'd give out a bit more heat!"

personal tax allowance for disabled people.

DIG director Pauline Thompson said: "Our research shows that there are many dis-

abled people living in extreme hardship. They have to use extra heating, electricity and hot water just to ensure a basic level of health and comfort.

Their situation will get a lot worse in April unless the Chancellor freezes VAT."

Meanwhile, research by the Charities Tax Reform Group

(CTRG), a campaign group made up of over 300 charities, has revealed that a VAT rate of 17.5 per cent will cost Mencap an extra £170,000, the Royal National Institute for the Blind £126,000 and Scope £200,000.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, which spends about £1 million a year on heat and lighting, will have to find another £200,000 next year.

The charity's finance director John Adey said: "A VAT increase will certainly increase the cost of care. Many of our 86 homes are old and expensive to heat so VAT on fuel will affect our ability to pay."

The CTRG has sent a copy of the survey to Mr Clarke and urged him to give charities full VAT relief. A spokesperson said: "We are not asking for special treatment, just to be put on an equal footing with businesses and local authorities who already get VAT relief."

A Treasury spokesperson said: "Charities already enjoy relief from a wide range of taxes. Nevertheless, the Chancellor will consider this appeal carefully."

## Pioneering centre to open

Christopher Place, a pioneering assessment and therapeutic centre for children with speech, language and hearing impairments, will open in Euston, London, next September.

A team of therapists will provide specialist treatment to 65 children aged under five.

Speaking at the project's launch last month, patron Susie Sainsbury said: "The centre will be the first of its kind in the UK and help children from all over the country. We have raised £1.3 million but need another £300,000 to pay for Christopher Place."



Lucy Heath (left) and her daughter Abigail - who will be one of the centre's first pupils - meet patron Susie Sainsbury (right)

## First leisure conference

Gioya Steinke reports

The first conference to address the leisure needs of blind and visually impaired people was held in London last month.

EuroLeisureLink was a splendid event organised by the Royal National Institute for the Blind with the help of the European Union's HELIOS project.

The aim was to exchange information on the barriers that prevent visually impaired people participating in leisure activities and improve awareness among mainstream leisure providers.

Delegates from France, Italy, Spain and Greece debated such

issues as gardening, conservation, music, theatre and holidays.

It was very interesting to learn how other countries provide leisure facilities for partially sighted people. Italy, for example, has good access for guide dogs, and blind musicians in Greece are regarded as the best in their country.

The conference resolved to develop a European leisure information database, develop disability awareness programmes and identify the support visually impaired people need to participate fully in integrated leisure activities.

## Gallery wins holiday award

The National Gallery and a family-run hotel in Scotland were among the winners of the 1994 Holiday Care Service Awards.

The gallery was named best tourist attraction, while the Old Pines Hotel at Spean Bridge

won the best hotel of 20 bedrooms and under at a reception in London last month.

Other winners included Blackpool hotelier Jon Huntley, (most helpful member of staff), Hamdden Llety Mieri from Dyfed, Wales, (best self-cater-

ing accommodation), Thurston Manor Holiday Home Park (best caravan park), Coppid Beech, Bracknell (best hotel of 20 bedrooms and over) and Thomas Cook (best travel agent). Winners received commemorative porcelain plates.

## Perfect Partners.



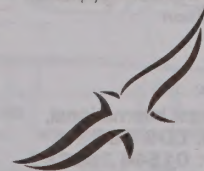
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## Brain tissue may offer new clues

Brain tissue taken from a woman who had surgery for epilepsy is being analysed for clues to the condition.

Researchers will be trying to establish whether there are abnormalities in the genes which may be causing epilepsy.

If the research does establish a genetic link, the next step would be to develop new, more effective anti-epileptic drugs.

Emma Downes, 22, from Middlesex, (right) is the first person whose brain tissue has been analysed in this way.

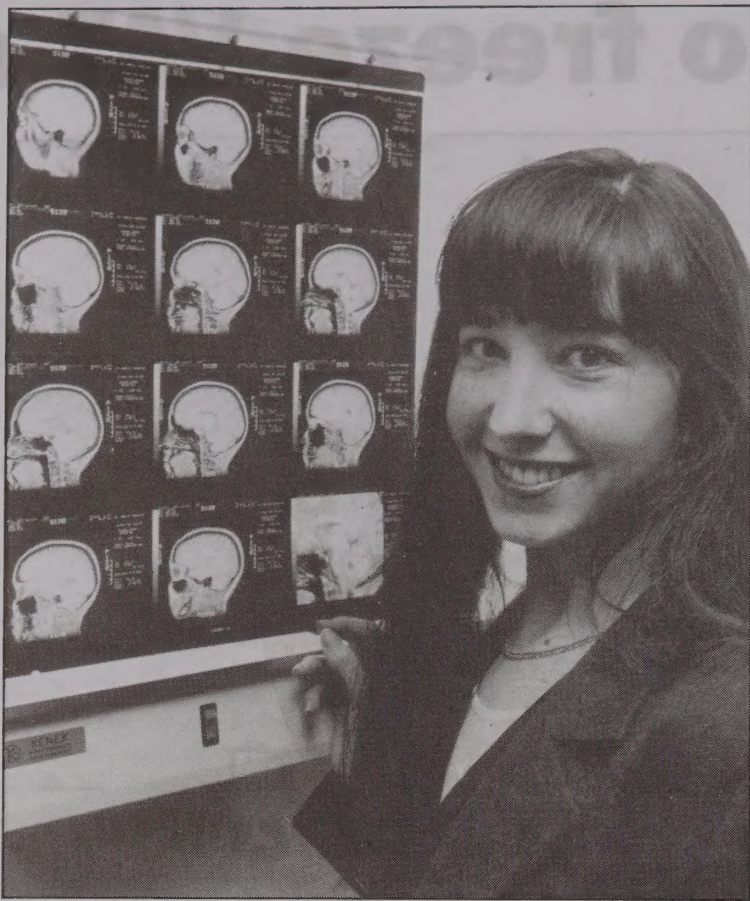
Emma's brain tissue has been frozen in liquid nitrogen. Cells will be taken from the tissue and scientists will then study genetic messengers to find out whether certain receptors in the brain cells are abnormal.

The work is being done by researchers from the the Institute of Neurology in London, the National Society for Epilepsy and the National Hospital for Neurology.

With the aid of a £200,000 grant from the Medical Research Council, the scientists will study about 90 samples over the next three years.

Consultant neurologist John Duncan, who will be leading the research, said that while 70 per cent of people were well controlled by drugs, 30 per cent were not, often because of damage to the part of the brain which controls memory.

In these cases, removal of the damaged part of the brain stopped seizures. But researchers believe that by



Searching for clues: Emma Downes, who hopes she has been cured of epilepsy, examines a scan of her brain FLEET PHOTOS

examining the genes in these areas they would learn more about the chemical abnormalities which trigger epilepsy.

Dr Duncan said the new study can now be carried out because of new developments in diagnosis and surgery for people with epilepsy.

"A whole new world of research and treatment is opening up now that we can look at the brain in such detail," he said.

"If we can understand more about the proteins produced by abnormal genes, we may be able to develop new drugs which bind to these and stop their actions."

Ms Downes, who has had no seizures since her operation in March, said: "If this small part of my brain is going to help other people with epilepsy, then I am really pleased."

## Dyslexia gene found

A team of American researchers believe they have located a gene for dyslexia – a reading disability which affects more than four per cent of children in the UK.

The breakthrough was made after scientists studied the genes

of 358 people from 19 families.

The research also confirms a link between dyslexia and autoimmune conditions such as arthritis.

"We have found evidence that a dyslexia gene exists on chromosome six," said Professor William Kimberling of the Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha.

"We're not saying the condition is totally genetic," he said. "It is still possible that the environment plays a part as well."

"People suffer from dyslexia in varying degrees, which suggests that there may be more than one factor at work."

## Cancer jab on the way

A vaccine that scientists believe can halt the spread of cancer and cure viral infections such as herpes is being jointly developed by scientists from Germany and Britain.

The vaccine, which contains two weakened pox viruses, works by provoking the body into producing extra cytokines – chemicals which help the immune system repel attacks from invading viruses.

Tests on more than 1,000 patients by researchers at the University of Munich have shown that boosting cytokine levels can improve peoples' recovery rates.

The Munich team is now about to start work with scientists at the Centre for Applied Microbiological Research (CAMR) at Porton Down in Wiltshire to turn the breakthrough into a usable drug which will be marketed by

Stega, an Austrian-based pharmaceutical company.

Professor Anton Myer, who is leading the Munich research team, said: "We have already used the vaccine against the herpes virus and had some very good results."

"We have also used it with chemotherapy against breast cancer and prostate cancer, and found that complications can be made to disappear, and the spread of cancer can be stopped if used early."

But Professor Myer warned that the vaccine was not a miracle cancer cure. "It can certainly halt the spread of early cancer, but it cannot be a complete cure," he said.

Scientists at CAMR and Munich hope to start producing the vaccine in early 1995. Clinical trials are expected to start soon afterwards.

## New drug delays MS symptoms

A new drug treatment for people with multiple sclerosis (MS) has been shown to delay its disabling effects.

MS, the second most common neurological condition among young adults, affects about 60,000 people in Britain.

Latest results from a trial of beta inteferon, made by the American pharmaceutical company Biogen, shows that the new treatment increased by 75 per cent the length of time it took for people with MS to develop symptoms.

The work is being carried out by Dr Lawrence Jacobs and colleagues working for the American Neurological Association in San Francisco.

He said: "For the first time we have an effective therapy. If we can use it early on we can make life easier for people with the condition by slowing down the accumulation of symptoms."

A MS Society spokesperson said: "We welcome this encouraging work, but we would urge people not to get too carried away. A lot more research into the drug needs to be done."

## Asprin used to fight AIDS

Scientists believe asprin could help in the fight against Aids.

Dr Elizabeth Kopp and Dr Sankar Ghosh of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Yale, have found that the drug can inhibit the action of proteins which help viruses like HIV to multiply. The breakthrough suggests that high doses of asprin could help to damp down HIV replication in people with AIDS.

Dr Ghosh said: "This is an exciting find. We believe there is a potential use of the drug in AIDS treatments, though these are preliminary findings."

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## IN BRIEF

### Families out of pocket

Families are subsidising members with learning difficulties by an average £30 a week to supplement inadequate social security benefits, according to a survey published by Mencap.

The report\*, based on ten interviews in Manchester and a questionnaire completed by 47 Cheshire families, found that some families are paying out £80 a week. About 70 per cent of parents questioned said benefits were too low, others had to choose whether to work overtime for extra cash or spend more time with dependents.

The Government should introduce a new disability benefit to cover a wide range of extra costs, including washing and heating, said the report.

\* Free, tel: 071-454 0454.

### New interpreter service

A service for deaf people who need an interpreter for special occasions was launched in Berkshire last month.

People can use the scheme, run by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and funded by Berkshire county council, by leaving their request on a minicom.

A council spokesperson said: "The service is for people who need help with occasions like a job interview or medical consultation. We hope to help as many people as possible."

### Autism on the agenda

National Autism Week runs from 4 to 10 December.

Organised by the National Autistic Society, it aims to promote a better understanding of autism, which affects an estimated 115,000 people in the UK, and highlights the "desperate" lack of resources provided for people with autism and their families.

### Care by computer

A new computer software package designed to help social workers assess the care needs of disabled people has been tested by Hampshire County Council.

The Assessment and Care Management System allows social services managers to record information on elderly and disabled people, and look at the best combination of care available for each individual.

The system, designed by Easams in Camberley, monitors individuals and helps identify where needs are not being met. It is aimed at social services departments and health authorities.

Freephone, tel: (0800) 622401.

### Correction

From DN's November issue: The picture at the top of page 20 is of a Jatab wheelchair, not a Chairman.



Lance Batram, who has cerebral palsy, beat 5,000 youngsters to win the Britain in Bloom art competition. He used leaves and wheelchair tyre tracks for the painting. NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST

## Mum fights for refund

A mother whose daughter has cerebral palsy wants her money back from British Rail after "customer assistance" officers failed to help them at a station.

Zelda Robinson, from Kensington, west London, was travelling with her daughter Sarah, 44, from Paddington station to Newport. She phoned the station in advance to warn them when they would arrive. But they could find no special parking facilities, and no one to help them on to the platform or train.

"Eventually a ticket operator closed his stall to help us," she said. "We were really fed up."

So far the only refund Mrs Robinson has been offered is

£25 worth of travel vouchers. The tickets cost £125.

British Rail is split into separate operators - Paddington is run by Great Western Railways. Richard MacFarlane, head of customer services, said it was not their fault as customer assistance officers are employed by Railtrack.

Steven Mackay, Railtrack's operations and safety officer, said: "Mrs Robinson must have got confused because she never went to our disabled person's reception point."

He conceded, however, that the area was sometimes left unstaffed if other passengers were being attended to.

## RIBA response 'inadequate'

The marketplace should decide when and how quickly public buildings are accessible to disabled people, according to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the body that governs and regulates the architectural profession.

The announcement was part of RIBA's response to the Government consultation document on disability rights (DN, November). The institute said it would prefer persuasion and education through codes of practice rather than tightening building regulations or going for full-blown legislation.

"If particular people found that indirect discrimination was being exercised, then they should be encouraged in the

first instance to ask their Member of Parliament to intervene," the report states.

But its attitude has been condemned by access groups and architects alike.

Sarah Langton-Lockton, chief executive of the Centre for Accessible Environments, said: "The report is inadequate. Persuasion and education just do not work. They are even underestimating their own members. There is a growing appreciation of this issue within the profession."

Architect Louis Hellman said the "non-answer" left architects in a vacuum with no guidance. "Legislation will always be inadequate, but it is better than what is there now."

## DN's Lin wins award

DN's telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is one of this year's Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) People of the Year.

Lin, who is blind and has cerebral palsy, was nominated for her work on behalf of disabled people. She was one of only two disabled people to get the award last month, the other being motorcycle champion Wayne Rainey. There were 11 awards.

"It's a privilege," she said. "I hope that I'm being an ambassador for other disabled people."

She was concerned that the number of able-bodied people

getting an award, such as Dame Vera Lynn, would distract media and public attention from the achievements of disabled people.

"Whilst I recognise that Vera Lynn has every right to have that publicity, I feel that there should have been more of an equal balance between disabled and able-bodied people."

But RADAR director Bert Massie said: "Our services are free at the point of delivery and you have to get money from somewhere. We don't want to honour people because they're disabled, but because of what they've done."

# CARCHAIR IN ACTION

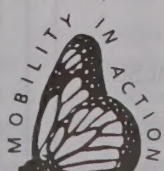
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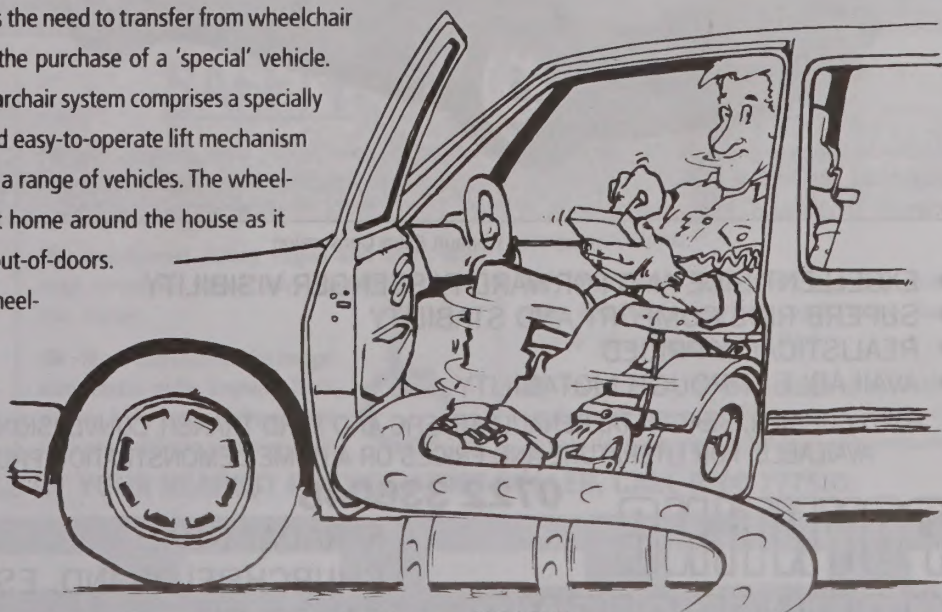
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# Historic day at Brussels

More than 50 disabled people and advocates took part in a human rights plenary meeting at the European Parliament, Brussels, in October.

Representatives from 24 European and national disability organisations discussed independent living, definitions of disability, sexuality, bioethics, euthanasia and eugenics.

The aim was to show the European Commission that disability is a human rights issue.

Delegates agreed that:

- European anti-discrimination legislation was essential to ensure disabled people have legal rights to accessible transport, housing, leisure activities and employment
- Every disabled person should be given their own income paid for by the state, assessed according to individual needs
- Member states should be given incentives to introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation
- People with the HIV virus and AIDS should be welcomed into the disability movement.

Delegates rejected the World Health Organisation's (WHO) medical definition of disability. This divides disabled people into groups according to their medical condition.

The meeting called on the

WHO to adopt a new definition which would recognise that a disabled person is "an individual in their own right, placed in a disabling situation".

Rachel Hurst, chairperson of Disabled People's International - European Union Committee, said: "The day was a big success. Delegates agreed that disabled people must start setting the agenda for discussions of issues relating to their lives. This was a very good start."

Mary Benotti MEP, vice-chairperson of the European All Party Disablement Group, said a report on the meeting will be discussed by MEPs on 1 December. She said: "We are pleased that the meeting will be debated by MEPs and hope that concrete action will be taken as a result."

\* The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) is calling on the Government to establish a disability audit of all prospective European legislation which may have an impact on the lives of disabled people.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, RADAR director Bert Massie said: "We feel disabled people in the UK could be adversely affected by new European laws unless their needs are considered at the earliest stage."



Ronald Reagan making a point as President. He now hopes to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease AMERICAN EMBASSY

## Reagan has Alzheimer's

Former American President Ronald Reagan has revealed that he has Alzheimer's disease.

In a hand-written letter to "My fellow Americans", Mr Reagan said that he wanted to increase awareness and understanding of the degenerative mental condition, which affects 500,000 people in the UK and four million Americans.

"The family often bears a heavy burden," Mr Reagan's letter said. "I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from the painful experience ... We feel it is important

to share it with you. In opening our hearts, we hope that this might promote greater awareness of this condition. Perhaps it will encourage a clearer understanding of the individual and families who are affected by it."

Mr Reagan's doctors said they had begun to detect the first signs of the condition in routine tests a year ago. After more tests and "intensive observation over the past few weeks," they concluded that Mr Reagan, 83, was "entering the early stages of the condition."

\* The Republicans won control of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives in the mid-term elections on 8 November.

They will now be able to block President Clinton's legislative proposals, including his Health Bill, which would give health insurance coverage to all Americans. The previous Health Bill suffered from Republican delaying tactics (DN, November). President Clinton was hoping to re-introduce it next year.

## Russian campaign launched

Russian disability campaigners are calling on their Government to improve access to public buildings.

The campaign follows the publication of *The State Report on the Present Situation of Disabled People in Russia*, a Government study which said that town planners take no notice of the access needs of disabled people. The report also revealed that:

- The amount spent by the State on disabled people has been halved since 1991
- No public transport system in Russia is accessible
- Only 12 per cent of Russian disabled children have the medicines they need
- Last year, only ten new books were printed in braille and about 700,000 people were waiting to have prostheses fitted.

Alexander Lomakin, chairperson of the All-Russia Society of Disabled People, said: "We are sending officials the addresses of places regularly visited by disabled people and asking them to install ramps at each building."

## Anger in Iraq

There is growing anger in Iraq about President Saddam Hussein's policy of amputating the limbs of lawbreakers.

Protesters have attacked officials of the ruling Ba'ath Party, cutting the ears off some of them. They are angry that thieves are having their hands amputated and second offenders having their feet cut off.

An order that deserters and draft dodgers should have their ears cut off proved the last straw.

Doctors refused to carry out the amputations but were forced to back down when the authorities threatened to imprison them.

## Smuggled babies end up in care

Disabled children who were smuggled into Britain from Romania have had to be taken into care after being rejected by the couples who adopted them.

One child was given up because they developed physical and mental disabilities while three others were rejected

because they had the HIV virus.

The cases were highlighted last month in a study by researchers at London's Maudsley Hospital. It said about 600 Romanian children have been adopted by families in Britain since 1990. Many more may have been smuggled in.

## Dutch screen euthanasia film

Broadcasters from all over Europe are queuing up to buy a Dutch documentary showing the first ever televised case of euthanasia.

*Death on Request*, which was screened in October, followed wheelchair user Cees van Wenden from late 1993 to 3 March 1994, when he died aged 63 at

the hands of a doctor. Its director said the film was an attempt to record "as simply and honestly as possible a straight-forward euthanasia case."

The film shows the Dutchman, who had an incurable muscle-wasting condition, slide into sleep after receiving a powerful sedative.

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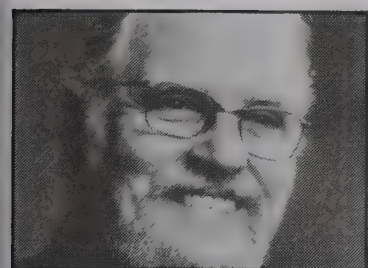
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# Some accommodation not fit for a cat



## Death of Guthrie

Ann Darnbrough writes: Duncan Guthrie has died at 83.

A charismatic man, he will be remembered with affection by many around the world, particularly those struggling against poverty in developing countries. His abiding commitment to justice led him to fight the cause of street children and pioneer ways of improving the lives of malnourished children.

Duncan's concern for disabled people started when his daughter contracted polio. He founded the Polio Research Fund, now Action Research, and with others, the Central Council for Disabled People, now RADAR.

To many, including myself, he was a true friend, an inspiration and a constant source of encouragement. It was typical of him that, despite physical difficulties, he took part in the 1993 Papal conference on Aids in Rome to urge the use of contraception.

Duncan leaves a widow, Prunella, and three children.

Two days after the excitement of the Scope relaunch, members at the 42nd Annual General Meeting of The Spastics Society on 5 November heard that the Society had failed to break even in 1993-4.

Although total income had risen to over £74 million, and operating costs had been cut, bringing the deficit of £1.5m in 1992-3 down to £553,000 in 1993-4, "money is still running out of the bottom of our bucket faster than we are able to fill it," said honorary treasurer Jan Hildreth.

He blamed the recession and growing competition which had hit "fundraising and other activities".

The charity was budgeting to do more than it could afford, he said. "We skimp on many of the jobs we do, then half way through the year we have to make unplanned cuts. Just look at the state of some of our residential units if you doubt me.

"If we cannot bring our income into line, the only option may be to cut out whole services," he warned.

Chairman Anthony Hewson acknowledged that investment in buildings and existing services was "critical".

"I am sick of going to units and finding people living in accommodation that, frankly, I

would have difficulty keeping my cat in, let alone my son," he said.

He pledged that the executive council would finalise no budget for next year until it knew the outcome of the current year, and that existing services would have priority over new projects.

The council is likely to approve a "strategic direction" in December, leading to a strategic plan.

Celebrating relaunch, a video message of support from Scope's patron HRH the Duchess of Kent was shown, and a video of the day which included comments from David Dimbleby and the Duke of Westminster.

Members heard of important developments, such as local Gateopener services; a new



Valerie Lang, ex-vice chairman and councillor, receives the patron's award from Anthony Hewson. With ex-chairman Derek Ashcroft and ex-regional committee chairman Trevor Gwynn John, she also received life membership of Scope.



On the council: two new members, Denise Bloomfield (right) and Les Unwin (far left), join re-elected members (from left) Jim Hoskisson, David Hayes and Jan Hildreth

MICHELLE SMITH

partnership between Scope and the charity DIAL UK (Disability Information and Advice Lines) to improve information access for disabled people and their families; a partnership agreement between national Scope and local groups; and suggestions for widening Scope's membership.

Chief Executive Ann Robinson ended by emphasising that Scope was going to put disabled people and carers first. "We are making sure they get the services they need. We are going to do it together and with our new friends."



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# Nice motors, shame about the parking

David Griffiths reports on the highs and lows of this year's Motor Show

At first it seemed as if the 1994 Birmingham Motor Show planners had excelled themselves. Plenty of specialised parking for disabled people would be provided and a super-glow triangle parking permit to display in your vehicle window to attract the attention of marshals and security staff, valid for every day of the show.

Valid for every day that is, except (of course) press day. And when else would you suppose a motoring correspondent would attend? So there I was, circling from marshal to marshal in a vain search for the special parking, which had become a VIP car park for the day.

I wasted well over an hour while frustrated staff (who it must be said were very helpful



and considerate) tried to find me somewhere to park.

This meant my time at the show was somewhat truncated, and left me unable to cover all the halls I wanted to see.

## Turning to Japan

The good news, though, came from Suzuki, who have linked up with Motability. Currently it is only a hire purchase agreement, but it will soon include contract hire. Suzuki vehicles are often (wrongly) overlooked

by disabled buyers, yet the Vitara automatic three-door represents one of the most practical vehicles for ambulant disabled drivers with a lower limb problem or stiffness.

Getting in and out is merely a matter of perching on the seat and swinging around, while the power steering is light and positive. The layout of the controls is easy to handle. Attractively priced, at £9,250, the Vitara has four-wheel drive and has won converts among muscular dystrophy and arthritic drivers living in rural areas.

Other models include the Swift, unfortunately only available in Britain as an automatic with five doors, and the attractive Swift Estate, built in Hungary, priced from £7995. It



The three-door Suzuki Vitara – new link with Motability

sion and an attractive discount.

The good news is that by the summer we could have at last a wheelchair user-friendly model in the shape of the M24, a three-door hatchback, priced from £7,895. It has been needed for a long time and should help secure Proton a larger niche in the disabled market. Tel: (0275) 375475.

A good look at the new Volkswagen Polo (from £6,950) suggests that it could prove a challenge to some of the smaller hatchbacks, provided the price is right. However, despite all demands, the automatic version is still a long way off – it could be a year or more before we see it. Meanwhile, the Golf automatic is the best hope but access is poorer than with the old model, and the price, £12,299, may well put people off. Tel: (0908) 679121.

One of the most sensible small newcomers is the Punto from Fiat, from £6,498. With huge doors in the three-door variants, good seating, clear visibility and a hatchback that should accommodate most wheelchairs, it may win friends among those who have no need for an automatic. Selecta transmission is available in only one five-door version at the moment, £8,629. Tel: (0753) 511431.

## People carriers

People carriers are much in vogue, with what appears to be a surprisingly large variety vying for attention. However, closer inspection reveals that many share the same bits. Citroen, Peugeot and Fiat offer better access than the established Toyota Previa, since they are lower, but interior spaciousness is somehow better in the latter.

The Espace from Renault continues to be one of the best, but watch out for the new Mercury from Ford, which many were enthusiastic about, but which I was unable to visit.

None are likely to offer the versatility and practicality of the Volkswagen Caravelle/Transporter range when it comes to catering for users with disabilities, however.

Still on larger vehicles, the new Ford Transit for 1995, from £14,495, offers some useful add-ons for disabled users, like electrically-heated power door mirrors, electric windows and heated windscreen for defrosting on these cold mornings. All automatic diesels now have a turbo, which should considerably improve perfor-

mance, and there are some metallic paint options.

However, these are nothing on the 50 colour choices available to Mercedes van buyers.

The Mercedes 208 series is also available now with automatic transmission and power-assisted steering and, at £13,390, priced near to the Transit. Although not offering the versatility for high-tech driver adaptations, these vehicles could form a useful base for a conversion for a disabled user not requiring greatly sophisticated driver hardware. They are also noted for their reliability and long life. Contact Alan Grigg, tel: (0908) 245000.

## The big unknown

Finally, the biggest name you've never heard of, Daewoo. The company has General Motors and Toyota connections and some nice cars. The Nexia hatchback should prove practical for many disabled drivers. Automatic transmission options are available throughout the whole range of Daewoo cars, and all feature power-assisted steering and electric windows.

There are no prices yet, and the company is conducting a survey to find out what sort of features disabled and able-bodied drivers would like to see on vehicles when they are officially launched in 1995.

I spent time talking to staff about disability requirements and was impressed by their keen interest. You can take part in the Daewoo questionnaire. Freephone: (0800) 666222.

The earlier delay meant I had to skip hall four entirely so my apologies to lovers of BMWs, Hyundai, Daihatsu and Honda in particular.

I saw five other wheelchair users on press day, plus a selection of ambulant disabled visitors. At least five of these had been forced, like myself, to park in the taxi and shuttle rank. The exhibition organisers should take note for next year.

Could you be the RAC's Disabled Driver of the Year 1995? You could win a £2,500 holiday to a destination of your choice. The runners-up will win short-break UK holidays. Write to RAC Response Disabled Driver of the Year Competition, PO Box 306, Bristol BS99 5RY or tel: (0117) 9511170 for an application form. Closing date is 31 January.



The Volkswagen Polo – still manual, but a challenge to some of the smaller hatchbacks

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is small, practical and offers a rare combination of cost, access and overall size. An added attraction for the theft-conscious buyer over the next month is that the new Tracker security system will be provided free to new customers. Tel: (0293) 518000.

Toyota's RAV4 offers similar access and user potential to the Vitara, but at the higher price of £12,666. Granted the machine appears a little more sophisticated, and Toyota's reputation is renowned, but access is better in the Vitara. However, RAV4 certainly looks as if it is going places, and should be worthy of serious consideration. Tel: (0737) 768585.

## Research pays off

When Proton arrived at their first UK Motorshow they had already conducted considerable market research to test the disability user potential of their new saloon and hatchback. Models were placed in the hands of assessment centres and adaptation companies and thoroughly tested. It was a plan that paid off, and today Proton has a strong following and a "special" for disabled drivers with power steering, automatic transmis-





Cheers! It's champagne all round (courtesy of European Passenger Services) as Ruth (left) and Gioya enter the tunnel. Right: the new Eurostar shuttle

COLIN MARSDEN/TIM RUSSELL



# All aboard the European express

How disability friendly is the new Channel Tunnel crossing? Ruth Bailey and Gioya Steinke went to Brussels to find out

The new Waterloo International Terminal feels like an airport rather than a railway station, writes Ruth Bailey. The interior of roughened stainless steel and the undulating glass roof makes it light and unobtrusive.

Thankfully, facilities for wheelchair users enhanced this impression of flowing, effortless, movement. The ticket office has low counters without glass screens, which made for easy communication.

I took the general route through check-in and passport control to the departure lounge without difficulty. Here was an accessible loo, reached via two sets of heavy doors, the only ones in the building which weren't automatic, yet arguably the most vital!

Emerging from the public lift, I saw the familiar British Rail portable ramp, propped against the glistening new train.

The opportunity had been missed to incorporate features into the design to allow for independent and easy access by wheelchair users and others with mobility difficulties.

I sat in one of the two wheelchair spaces, both of which are in first class. My "special" fare was £116 return to Brussels, about £20 more than the cheapest fare.

It was comfortable enough, and it was a relief that an easy

wheel away was an accessible loo.

However, had I been traveling with another wheelchair user, we would have been separated, as the wheelchair spaces are in different carriages.

An hour into the journey our train manager announced that we were approaching the Channel Tunnel. Ten more minutes passed. People started to whisper, "are we in it yet?"

Then we were inside and it was pitch black out of the windows. This did not stop me thinking, however, of just the few thousand tons of concrete separating me from the icy waters of the English Channel!

As soon as we saw the French sun, the train broke its leash, accelerating to 350km per hour, considerably faster than is possible on UK track.

But everything has its price. The ride was no longer smooth and the train began to tilt. When we stopped at Lille, the action of breaking made my chair tip backwards. Some sort of restraint or ballast seems essential.

## An undignified arrival

Three hours after leaving Waterloo we arrived at Brussels Midi station. Two Belgium officials came to help me off ... but there was no ramp, portable or otherwise.



Gioya heads for Europe ...

So there was no option but to endure the indignity and discomfort of being lifted down three steep steps by people I could barely communicate to. I spoke neither French nor Flemish and they spoke no English.

Peter Kendell, public affairs director for European Passenger Services, who run the service, had earlier defended the continued reliance on portable ramps. Customer services would always be there to help, he told me.

But what if, like British Rail, they forgot, or the message didn't get through or they couldn't find the ramp?

Such a scenario was as unlikely as finding sandcastles in the tunnel, he said. So it was fortuitous that Mr Kendell passed by just as I was being manhandled out of the train.

"I take your point," he said. There was some small comfort in the fact that he sounded genuinely chastened.

Eurostar is "getting there", but, unlike British Rail, it cannot blame its shortcomings on old stock and buildings.

I was one of those sceptics who said I would not travel through the tunnel even if I had the offer, writes Gioya Steinke.

Well, I was "offered" and I have been converted.

As we entered the tunnel, I imagined there would be bells or an announcement, or maybe a gong. But no, there was just a rustle of awareness when the train jolted ever so slightly.

I felt a small change in air pressure, then the train manager announced in three languages that we had reduced speed to 40mph as there was a fault in the signalling and we were changing to a single track.

As a visually impaired person, I found it quite scary in the tunnel. There is absolute silence, no sense of movement whatsoever. My tape recorded: "Are we moving?", "How do we know if we are moving?"

## Smooth ride

The superb balance of the Eurostar is amazing. There is no swaying as you walk down the aisle, no falling on to other passengers or spilling hot drinks (which I have done so often).

One can walk around with ease to the toilet, telephone, bar or buffet. I felt safe and could use my white cane with confidence. The seats felt a little severe at first but are designed for relaxed sitting.

I had plenty of leg room and we were given a lot of care and

attention, but then so were many of the other passengers.

We did not feel in anyway patronised. But would disabled people get the same "treatment" on future journeys, I asked.

I was assured they would, especially if they phoned in advance, and this "attention" would be given even without prior notice.

I have since visited Waterloo International Terminal again and was allowed to "tap" my way through all the reception areas, lifts, escalators (designed to take the luggage trolleys) and the travelator. This is a lovely, moving gentle slope up to another level and the textured platform.

There was consultation with The Royal National Institute for the Blind in the design of the terminal – and it shows. Glass doors are marked with yellow spots, there is a really good guard (I call it a tapping rail) that alerts the feet and cane to every barrier or obstacle, and superb lighting.

Ironically, when we arrived in Belgium a student demonstration meant we all had to get out and walk part of the way to the hotel. As I picked my way through the traffic, the thought of that swift, safe journey through the tunnel seemed like a piece of cake.



Shock of the new: Ruth comes aboard the same old way



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# Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Poor deal from the AA

I was pleased to read about the disability charities lobbying insurance companies (*DN*, October).

Your article in the same issue, "Shop till the premiums drop", summed up the difficulties disabled drivers face trying to gain a fair deal in motor insurance. However, like Roy Limb, it was perhaps "more upbeat" than real experience bears out.

It is unjust that disabled drivers should have to fight so hard for a fair deal. It should be ours by right, but such rights are at present denied by organisations such as the Association of British Insurers.

Unfortunately, as someone with cerebral palsy, I haven't found intermediaries who supposedly specialise in the disabled to be able to provide a much better deal, perhaps because they too have to deal

with a limited number of insurers who know they can get away with discriminating against disabled drivers.

Ironically, on my most recent search for motor insurance, I found the AA to be the most discriminatory.

My first attempt at getting a quotation from my local AA shop led to frustration, as the first company thrown up by their software, City of Westminster, would not take me because of my disability.

Their second quotation, from Drake, was for £210, but I had been quoted £70 less elsewhere.

I find it is very disturbing that such a large company which boasts about its understanding attitude towards disabled people should provide such a poor deal on their motor insurance.

Mandy Hudson  
Bury, Lancs

## Lottery money

There is controversy over how the new lottery money should be spent. Many people are not happy about it being spent on sport and arts and want it to go to the NHS, which the Government has refused to do.

So why not spend the money on electric powered wheelchairs and access to public buildings? The Government has refused to do this, saying it is too expensive. Now we have an excellent opportunity.

A Wells  
Ruislip, Middlesex



DIY triumph: the wheelchair Mr Atkins made for his wife

## A wheelchair for under £25

In August *DN* you had an article about recycled rubbish.

I have made an indoor chair at a cost of £10 for an old scrap wheelchair from the DSS, £8 for a car seat I took out of a scrap car and a piece of metal from the local tip. The footrest (*not in photo*) is an old folding chair I had in my shed and the foam on it

cost £5. The material cost £1.

The reason for the chair is that my wife has multiple sclerosis. It can be reclined so she lies back and is safe from falling and at the same time she can be moved round the bungalow or garden.

I hope this is of interest.  
Henry Atkins  
Kingthorpe, Northampton

## No fun at the centre

The two drama therapists running courses to help people with dementia or Alzheimer's are to be congratulated. Much more of this approach is vital.

My mother, 92, goes to three Stevenage day centres, all equally dull, where old folk

are just sitting around with no stimulation. Aren't day centre leaders for the elderly given training in music and movement or getting up a jolly percussion band? People with dementia love old songs and tunes with strong rhythms.

Bel Bailey  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire

## What special school has done for Emily

Your news story "More pupils segregated" (*DN*, October) implies that special schooling for disabled children is a bad idea. I wholeheartedly disagree.

My daughter Emily is 15 and has ataxia telangiectasia, which disables her physically but not intellectually.

Attending mainstream junior school meant she was always last, slowest, least able and was treated like everybody's kid sister – kindly, but not given much chance to develop.

She now goes to Lord Mayor Treloar College in Alton, Hants, and it is the best thing that has happened to her educationally. She is given every opportunity, encouraged to be independent, her needs are assessed and assistance given, and she will most certainly reach her full potential.

Had Emily gone to her local comprehensive, she would have been in the same position as in the junior school, and would have been taught in the "special unit", which tends to be for children with intellectual disabilities.

My daughter is now on a par with her "able" brother. She has learnt what it is like to come first sometimes, to complete a lesson within the time and, most importantly, to help others who are less able.

Thank goodness the local education authority offered Emily the choice.  
Marian Barber  
Truro, Cornwall

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### A pole too far?

The US Equal Opportunities Commission is certainly minding its pc when it comes to telling employers how to conduct interviews in line with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

New guidelines explain that, for example, an interviewer "may ask an applicant with one leg who applies for a job as a telephone line person to describe or demonstrate how she would perform her duties, because (the interviewer) may reasonably believe that having one leg interferes with the ability to climb telephone poles."

### Sheer lack of success

When Barry Sheerman MP was asked, as Opposition Spokesman on Disabled People's Rights, for a comment on the name Scope, his secretary replied: "Mr Sheerman is not sure what his position is on that right now." Was he still at lunch? Had he forgotten his lines? All was revealed a few days later. He was out – of office.





CHRISTMAS ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARTINE SHEPPARD

# Putting on the glitz

It's time to get dressed up and party says *DN's* Sarah Rigby



With Christmas parties just around the corner, are you wondering what to wear? *DN* asked Jackie Whitworth of the Style Centre, Manchester, to pick out some of the best buys in the high street.

"Bearing in mind that both models are wheelchair users, I based my choice on ease of dressing as well as stylishness," said Jackie. "I tried to stay away from too much black and went for brighter colours to promote positive and more fashionable images of disabled people."

*DN's* two models, Tracey Scantlebury and Ben Smoldon, are keen to get into mainstream modelling and have recently signed up with the Louise Dyson Agency.

Tracey, 25, works part-time as an Information Officer for

Birmingham City Council. She buys most of her clothes (leggings, ski pants and trouser suits) from Wallis, Next and House of Fraser. "It's usually pot luck," said Tracey. "I don't often get the chance to try them on — the changing rooms are too small."

"I thought the glittery trousers were great — loose, but smart. I'm not sure whether I would wear the dress, but I liked the way the creased look fabric didn't get caught in my chair."

Ben, 20, is studying for a degree in Leisure Management in Birmingham. "Because I'm into sport, I usually wear leisure outfits. If I had the opportunity to dress up, I would definitely go for the Grandad-style shirt and the turquoise corduroy waistcoat. They would go well

with my casual clothes too."

*Style Centre, tel: 061-832 3678.*  
*Louise Dyson Agency, tel: 021-554 7878.*  
*Thanks to Stockport Council for the use of Bramall Hall.*



RAY TOWERS/STUDIO 061

**Merry Christmas (left):** Tracey wears a black beaded bustier in polyester, £49.99, teamed with viscose/polyester black glitter trousers, £49.99, and red button blouse also in polyester, £39.99. Amber necklace, £9.99, sun/moon bag, £12.99. All from Next. Also available by mail order from Next Directory, tel: (0345) 100 500. Ben is in black ribbioned trousers, polyester/wool, £55, white cotton shirt with winged collar, £30, red silk waistcoat, £35, and matching silk bow tie, £8. All from Marks and Spencer (M&S).

**Cheers (top):** Tracey wears shades of pink, creased look full-length dress in viscose, £40, with matching scarf in polyester, £10. Both from M&S. (Jewellery - model's own.)

**Ben (below)** wears black evening trousers of polyester/wool, £55, M&S, teamed with a white studded Grandad shirt in cotton, £24.99, turquoise cotton corduroy waistcoat, £36.99. From Next and Next Directory. Scarlet jacket in wool/polyester, £60, M&S.



## Disability Now

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**Short of ideas for a special Christmas present? Why not treat a friend to an annual subscription of *DN* ? For just £14\*, your friend will be sent 12 issues from January to December 1995. A gift card will be attached.**

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Adventure time: Hiking Heidi and Safari Sam come fully equipped with removeable clothing, rucksacks, maps and sleeping bags. £14.99 each, from large Boots stores.

We all love getting presents whether we're young in years or at heart. But choosing gifts for others can be tricky.

On the high street, BHS has plenty for children at reasonable prices. The soft "press here" toys come in the

shape of a plane, telephone and train. They are fun to touch, and make noises too. £5.99 each.

For budding painters and gardeners, the Paint and Grow Clown and Teddy should go down a treat. Children can

paint their own terracotta clown or teddy with the painting set, and then get those green fingers going with the cress growing kit. £5 each.

For pre-school children, Little Tikes has a wheelchair playset with its own access ramp and doll. The set is an



accessory for the Little Tikes dolls house. £8, £60 for the dolls' house. Available from toy shops.

Everyone loves *Sesame Street*, and here's a new way to enjoy the American tv show. Just sit back and listen as your very own Big Bird tells some wonderful stories (see photo right). For three years plus, £67 by Tyco Toys.

Children will love to start their Christmas day with a bang. The Balloon Kit from Galt comes with assorted balloons, a hand pump and stick-on faces. For six years and over. £3.

These toys are featured in *100 Popular Toys and Games for Blind and Partially Sighted Children* from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the British Toy and Hobby Association. Available free from the RNIB Education Information Service, tel: 071-388 1266.

If you're still hunting for ideas, don't forget *The Good Toy Guide 1994/5* which comes packed with hundreds of recommended toys. Special

## Dashing through On a one horse DN's guide to Will help you

symbols highlight toys which are particularly good for children with a hearing or visual impairment. £2.50 from newsagents or libraries.

Give teenagers who find it hard to get up and go in the morning a kickstart with the Motorbike Alarm Clock. Shaped like a 750cc bike, the alarm clock imitates the sound of a revving engine and has a flashing headlight and a recording which says "Let's Go". £19.99 from Boots.

For animal lovers, how about a cuddly seal T-shirt or sweatshirt? In soft pastel

colours, the shirts are pure cotton and will fit up to 42in chest. £10.99, T-shirt, £19.99, sweatshirt, from Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) Christmas catalogue.

To help mum relax after the busy festive season, you could treat her to aromatherapy bath oils. Jasmine, camomile, peppermint and juniper foambaths come in a gift set from Scope, £8.99. Tel: (0283) 506506.

To keep the family entertained over the long Christmas break, it is a good idea to have puzzles and

### Buy Christmas cards by DN artists!



**Mr Pudding Head** by Vanessa Gillett

(left, 10 cards for £2.20) and **Madonna & Child** by Maureen Farish (right, 10 cards for £2.60) were both shortlisted in the DN Christmas card competition, open to artists with disabilities.

Order them early and you won't be disappointed!



Please send me:

.....packs of Mr Pudding Head at £2.20 each = £ .....

.....packs of Madonna & Child at £2.60 each = £ .....

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Send this form with your cheque to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Orders must arrive by 9 December

Stuck for a gift idea? Why not give a good book?

In *Somebody Somewhere* Donna Williams talks openly about her life with autism. £16.99, Transworld Publishers. Phyll Western's *I Haven't Washed up for Thirty-Five Years* is a light-hearted account of life as a disabled person. £6.99, Desne Publishing. *Up Against It* is the autobiography of Martin James who has pursued a lifelong passion for fishing, despite disability. £14.99, The Crowood Press. *Forty Poems for Over Forty Feelings* by Robert Pyle expresses a



whole range of emotions from anger to love £4, Ten Wings Publications. *When Lightning Strikes* by Gilbert Vaux is an unsentimental account of life after a stroke. £6.95, Temple House Books.

Spoken word tapes make an ideal gift for someone who is visually impaired or has difficulty holding a book.

Christmas releases from HarperCollins include *My Autobiography - don't* by Robert Goddard, *Into the Blue* by Robert Goddard, *to Gain* by Barbara Bradford Taylor, *Shadows on the* by Ruth Rendell, *Frances Fyfield and Cold Shoulder* by La Plante. All £7.99. Available from bookshops or HarperCollins mail order, Dept 85C, Westerhill Road, Bishopton, Glasgow G46 2QT, tel: 081-307 4000.

Festive releases from Music C International include *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *Dubliners* by Joyce, both £6.99, *Lenny Henry, Loud and The Wacky World of U* by both £4.99. From HMV, Our Price £4.99. WH Smith.





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Margaret Gilbert spotted  
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# 18 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL – RECIPES



Christmas is a time for get togethers. If you're thinking of having family and friends over for a party here are some ideas for a quick festive menu.

## Cheesy Palmiers

150g/6oz Cheddar cheese, grated, 500g/1lb 2oz frozen puff pastry, just thawed, 1 egg, size 3, beaten,

1 small onion, finely chopped, 2 teaspoons (tsp), mustard, flour for dusting, oil for greasing  
Preheat oven to 220°C/Gas Mark 7. Lightly grease two baking sheets with oil. Roll out half the pastry thinly and cut it into a 10x13in rectangle. Brush with half the mustard and beaten egg, then sprinkle with

half the cheese and onion. With the short edge near you, roll one long vertical side in towards the centre. Repeat with opposite side, rolling until both sides touch. Brush with egg and cut roll crossways into thin slices. Place cut side uppermost on baking tray. Bake for 8-10 minutes until golden. Remove

and serve in a basket. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

## Tasty Chicken Spread

150g/5oz cooked chicken, chopped, 60g/2oz chopped almonds or walnuts, juice of half lemon, 60ml/2fl oz plain yoghurt, pinch of mustard powder, 4 tsp chopped onion, 4 tsp chopped parsley

Blend all the ingredients and chill until ready to serve. Serve on triangles of wholemeal toast.

## Chocolate Biscuit Cake

8oz broken biscuits (include some ginger if possible), 4oz margarine, 2 tablespoons (tbs) golden syrup, 1 tbs cocoa, 4oz plain chocolate, few sultanas or raisins

Put the biscuits in a plastic bag and crush into crumbs with a rolling pin. Melt all the other ingredients together and add to the biscuits. Stir well and put in an 8in flan tin. Smooth all over and chill for two hours until hard.

## Quick Mince Pies

4 slices of bread, buttered on one side, 2 tbs mincemeat, pinch of sugar

If you do not want to make pastry you can make excellent "mince pies" with bread in a sandwich maker. Just replace your usual filling with a generous spoonful of mincemeat and "toast" for four minutes or until the mincemeat smells "cooked". Sprinkle lightly with sugar. Eat hot or cold. Makes 2 large or 4 small.

### DN's tip

To jazz up ready-made mincemeat, add grated orange rind, chopped apple and nuts and a tbs of brandy.

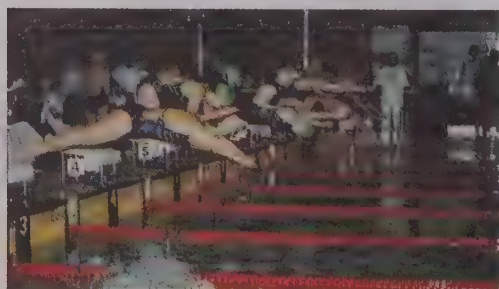


Competitors at the BT Kielder Challenge

## Helping young people with disabilities

*The BT Community Programme aims at helping disabled young people take a full and active role in sporting and outdoor activity.*

BT funds the swimming galas and training programmes of the British Sports Association for the Disabled as well as backing the British Paralympic Association.



It also sponsors the BT Kielder Challenge, an outdoor contest of problem-solving activities for mixed teams of youngsters with and without disabilities.

BT is anxious to encourage maximum participation by young people in these events.

Left: British Sports Association for the Disabled National Swimming Finals

*If you would like more details about them and how to take part, please contact:*

BT Community Liaison Manager,  
Floor A305,  
81 Newgate Street,  
London EC1A 7AJ  
Telephone 0171-356 5385  
Facsimile 0171-356 4765



Community Programme

## Recipes



### Mulled Wine

1.5 litre bottle red wine, 600ml/1pt orange juice, 2 cinnamon sticks, halved, 1 tsp whole cloves, 100g/4oz caster sugar, 1 orange

Put all the ingredients except whole orange into a large saucepan. Add 300ml/0.5pt water and bring to the boil, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat for 30 minutes. Slice orange thinly, crossways, without peeling, add to the pan and reheat wine. Ladle into heatproof glasses. Serves 8.

### Spicy Fruit Punch

1.75pt/1 litre tropical fruit juice drink, 1 cinnamon stick, 30ml/2 tbs maple syrup, 15ml/1 tbs rum, orange, lemon and lime slices  
Place the ingredients in a saucepan and heat gently until just about to boil. Turn off the heat and allow to stand for 15 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 8.

Thanks to: *Entertaining on a Budget* by Sara Lewis, Age Concern; *Diabetes Eat & Enjoy* by Christine Roberts et al, New Holland; *Cook it Yourself* by Michelle Berriedale-Johnson and Anne Davies, Cedar; and *Prima*.



FILM

Andy  
Kimpton-Nye



When I found out Kenneth Branagh's version of the Frankenstein myth was called *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, I hastily devoured the novel. Bad idea. I wasn't particularly thrilled by Shelley's original tale of Gothic horror, though I did warm to one or two themes, especially the one about being shaped by the way society treats us.

You know, the Frankenstein "monster" is disfigured. But he is only made aware that this is a problem when the family he longs to be part of repay his kindness with verbal and physical abuse, ostracising him.

As a result, I expected to see Branagh make something of this message of how disabling social attitudes can be.

Wrong move. The film is too interested in epic set pieces – the farewell ball for the undergraduate Victor Frankenstein (Branagh) or Victor's heroic trek across Alpine wastes in search of his rampaging "monster" (Robert De Niro) – repetitive swirling camera shots and a bodice-ripping romance between Victor and his adopted sister Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) to deal successfully with any single issue.

Ultimately, though, the movie fails because it tries too hard for a literal translation of book to film.

There's a lot of visual clatter on screen as they struggle to recreate the Enlightenment, and a scatter-gun approach to dealing with subjects dear to Mary Shelley's heart – Gothic horror, the excesses of science and the influence of the sublime.

But not much is said – apart from the director's seemingly personal preoccupation with life begetting death (or vice versa, I am not sure which).

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

There's a lot of impairment in the film. De Niro's pre-"monster" persona is a low-life amputee. The elder statesman of the family the "monster" takes to is blind. And the "monster" is disfigured. But little, if anything, is made of how cruel society can be towards difference.

A lovely looking film. But ultimately full of sound and fury signifying nothing.

Not the most auspicious film to kick-off the 38th London Film Festival. But *Muriel's Wedding*, mentioned last month, proved to be infinitely more enjoyable.

Muriel (Toni Collette) is one of life's losers who wants to win – well, get married. In her travels through this quirky comedy tinged with moments of genuine sadness, Muriel meets Rhonda (Rachel

Griffiths), who becomes disabled. And what a spunky, independent character Rhonda turns out to be.

This one should be on our screens sometime next year. Watch out for it.

And watch out next month for a new DN film reviewer. After five years of informed, provocative reviewing, Andy is moving on. Mike Devenney takes over.



Monster finds a friend? Blind grandfather (Richard Briers) and "monster" (Robert De Niro)

Candoco, the integrated dance company, three of whom are in wheelchairs, gave a performance at the Birmingham International Convention Centre in November that started gently but ended in a gutsy, electrifying climax.

Before an audience of almost 1,500, the company began with two old favourites, *Christy Don't Leave So Soon* and *To Please The Desert*. Both flowed as seamlessly and beautifully as ever.

*Between The National And The Bristol*, choreographed by Siobhan Davies, was technically flawless, but bland, asexual and, frankly, dull. In common with much contemporary dance, it left one with the feeling of having

DANCE

CandoCo

appreciated rather than enjoyed it. Possibly the loss of Jon French because of injury may have drained the piece of its energy.

In contrast, *Back To Front With Sideshows*, dealing with how disabled people are perceived, was dynamic and provocative. Directed by Emilyn Claid and devised by the performers, it explored sexuality and violence, but was also very funny.

The sheer speed at which wheelchairs flew across the

stage was exhilarating. There was palpable tension in the audience when David Toole, a disabled dancer, beat up an able-bodied dancer.

Charlotte Derbyshire portrayed a sultry, almost sluttish, character brilliantly.

There were also some very tender moments. We were both entertained and made to think.

It was good to see CandoCo performing in a venue that gave the dancers the space, lighting and sound quality they deserve, and refreshing to see there disabled people, children, carers and others who might not normally go to see dance.

Kirsteen Knight

For other venues and dates before CandoCo takes off for Europe, tel: 081-694 0903.

(he credits Oliver Sachs in the programme) and more listening to the experiences of visually impaired people, he might have produced something much better.

Colin Hambrook

Video list, Look Out For and Arty Facts on page 27

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TV

Chris Davies



Is it good news when a mainstream news and current affairs series at last encompasses disability? In the case of *World In Action* (24 October, ITV), the answer is yes and no. Yes, because their intention was to highlight discrimination against disabled people; no, because of the way they did it.

Instead of letting disabled people and their experiences speak for themselves, they had a newly disabled person and a non-disabled reporter taking a highly exaggerated journey to show lack of access to public buildings, etc.

Of course, the "crip for a day" found it extremely difficult getting around, whereas his companion, being the genuine article, found it less arduous and tedious. They tried to get on a bus, go to an inaccessible cinema and use ordinary taxis – the kind of things disabled people wouldn't do because they know what to avoid. Next time, Granada, stick to the real thing.

The same subject is being tackled in a much more accurate and positive way on a programme where you'd least expect this sort of stuff.

Every Wednesday from 19 October, "Changes", on the daily programme *Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick* (BBC1) is looking at discrimination against disabled people. The different treatment is because "Changes" is produced and presented by Lydia Thomas, who is herself disabled. The series is building to a day-long studio discussion on 30 November that I shall be attending.

"Changes" should reach people who wouldn't normally watch disability programmes, so congratulations to the *Good Morning* production team and Lydia in particular.

Neither programme has access for deaf viewers, even though they are pre-recorded. (Most of *Good Morning* is live, but not "Changes".) Nor, regrettably, is the *Children In Need Countdown* series. But before we jump down the throats of the mainly non-disabled programme makers, consider the following facts.

Of course *See Hear* (BBC1) and *Sign On* (C4) have on screen subtitles and sign language interpretation, but out of *Link* (ITV), *From The Edge* (now weekly BBC2) and *Disability Agenda* (BBC2) only one carries subtitles and sign language.

I'm partly responsible for that exception. You comment if you want.

THEATRE

Molly Sweeney

*Molly Sweeney*, the new play from the Almeida Theatre Company in London, has a message. It challenges the arrogance of the sighted world: sight is not the only key to understanding and knowledge.

Writer and director Brian Friel uses the story of Molly to unmask our misconceptions. After 40 years of blindness, she has an operation to remove the cataracts and gains partial

sight. But the stress of seeing again puts her back in hospital with a mental breakdown. Her confidence and sense of self are undermined. She cannot cope with a violent, constantly moving world.

Through retrospective monologues, we learn that Frank, Molly's husband, wants to "teach" Molly to see because he will feel he has achieved something, while Mr Rice, the ophthalmologist, wants to restore his reputation.

Molly becomes a "tragic but brave" victim, giving in to the men's demands – at odds, I felt, with the the strong, independent woman the play wanted to portray.

The fact that Molly was played by a sighted actress undermined the credibility of

the whole play. Catherine Byrne faltered at the point where she regained some of her sight. It was evidently something outside her experience and her lack of confidence showed as she tried to meet the audience's eyes.

The mental health issue was ignored. Molly's incarceration and return to "normality" was glossed over almost as if it didn't happen. The audience was left with the idea that a mental hospital must always be a place of wisdom and healing.

It was a shame that Brian Friel left the politics underlying his themes of loss and ignorance unresolved, because the play was tackling something not often given an airing in the theatre.

If he had spent less time consulting psychology gurus



# Let your fingers do the talking

(5) Shiatsu induces relaxation through breathing and gentle massage. Nic Paton took a deep breath ... and started scribbling



Seven-year-old Ashanti Bhuyia has taken Shiatsu to heart. From what she calls her "dalek" chair she shows me and photographer Jamie how she would do Shiatsu on her doll Kimberley.

She holds the doll face down in her lap and presses gently with her palm on its back,

explaining how she is spreading warmth through its body and helping Kimberley to relax.

Ashanti's mother Blu has been practising Shiatsu on her since September under the guidance of Shiatsu teacher Nick Powell. Ashanti, who has cerebral palsy, describes the sensation as like having tropical

fish swimming gently inside her legs.

Shiatsu means "finger pressure", which conveniently sums up the technique involved.

It originated in China at the same time as acupuncture and then moved to Japan. Indeed, it has been described as "acupuncture without the needles". The Shiatsu teacher uses the 365 acupuncture pressure points to massage a person's body with his or her fingers.

Nick Powell goes for a more psychological approach, using breath control and a softer touch to develop a warm, relaxed, trance-like state.

Shiatsu first came to the attention of the West after the Second World War, when Japan was under American occupation. The authorities banned most martial arts, but not Shiatsu. In the '60s and '70s the ideas behind Shiatsu were transported to America, eventually arriving in Britain.

Where it helps disabled children, explains Blu, is in encouraging both child and carer to relax.

"It has changed the way I do our physiotherapy. With the conventional physiotherapy it was very tiring for me and very stressful and tense for Ashanti. It was always me giving her whatever she needed and she taking it.

"With Shiatsu, it's more of a two-way thing. I'm giving and she's taking, but she's also giving back. It's a communication between us and this makes a much more personal relationship while we're doing it.



Feeling the beneficial effects from one to another (above) Elaine Jones, her mother Gladys and Nick Powell Ashanti Bhuyia lies back comfortably (left) while her mother Blu massages her midriff and Nick Powell is there to advise

JAMIE FACER

"Before we did Shiatsu, Ashanti would be very tense. She wouldn't look forward to the physiotherapy at all, and used to say 'Can't we do it tomorrow?' And I wouldn't look forward to doing it because I knew how tense she'd be."

There are practical benefits too. Blu cites the task of putting Ashanti's legs in clamps. Before using Shiatsu, Blu had to force them on Ashanti, after spending half an hour trying to relax her.

"Now it takes five to ten minutes to relax her and then put the clamps on. Doing Shiatsu means she's learned how to relax."

Nick Powell trained at the Shiatsu College in north Lon-

**"With Shiatsu, it's more of a two way thing ... it's a communication between us"**

don. He started treating disabled adults and children through the charity Scope for Complementary Therapies and the Family Link group, a body originally funded by Westminster Council Social Services.

His project is to get parents and carers involved in Shiatsu so they can eventually take over the "treatment" - more cost effective than constantly going to a professional.

Shiatsu is not currently available on the National Health Service. The only option is a private practitioner, who can cost £20 to £30 a time depending on where you live.

One way to find out more is to contact the Shiatsu Society, which keeps a register of professional practitioners. Another way is to read *DN!* That's how Jerry and Gladys Jones heard about Shiatsu (*DN*, March 1990), and contacted Nick Powell.

Their daughter, Elaine, 38, has cerebral palsy. They have nothing but praise for the effect Shiatsu has had on her over the last four years.

Nick Powell visits the family about once a month, and between then they do Shiatsu on Elaine's feet, ankles, arms and shoulders.

"Before, she was having lots of problems with pain and with her stomach from too much sitting. She was always on antibiotics," said Gladys.

Now her posture is much better, and her stomach problems have cleared up. She can wear a wider variety of shoes as her feet are not so swollen and she no longer has to wear a brace on her neck.

"I was so relieved that somebody was coming along and trying to do something for Elaine, because before there was nothing for her, not even any physiotherapy. GPs are not interested."

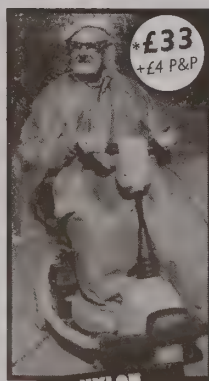
Shiatsu, or any complementary therapy, cannot be a substitute for conventional medicine, admits Gladys. "But everyone does say how much healthier Elaine looks."

*The Shiatsu Society, 5 Foxcote, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 3PG, tel: (0734) 730836.*

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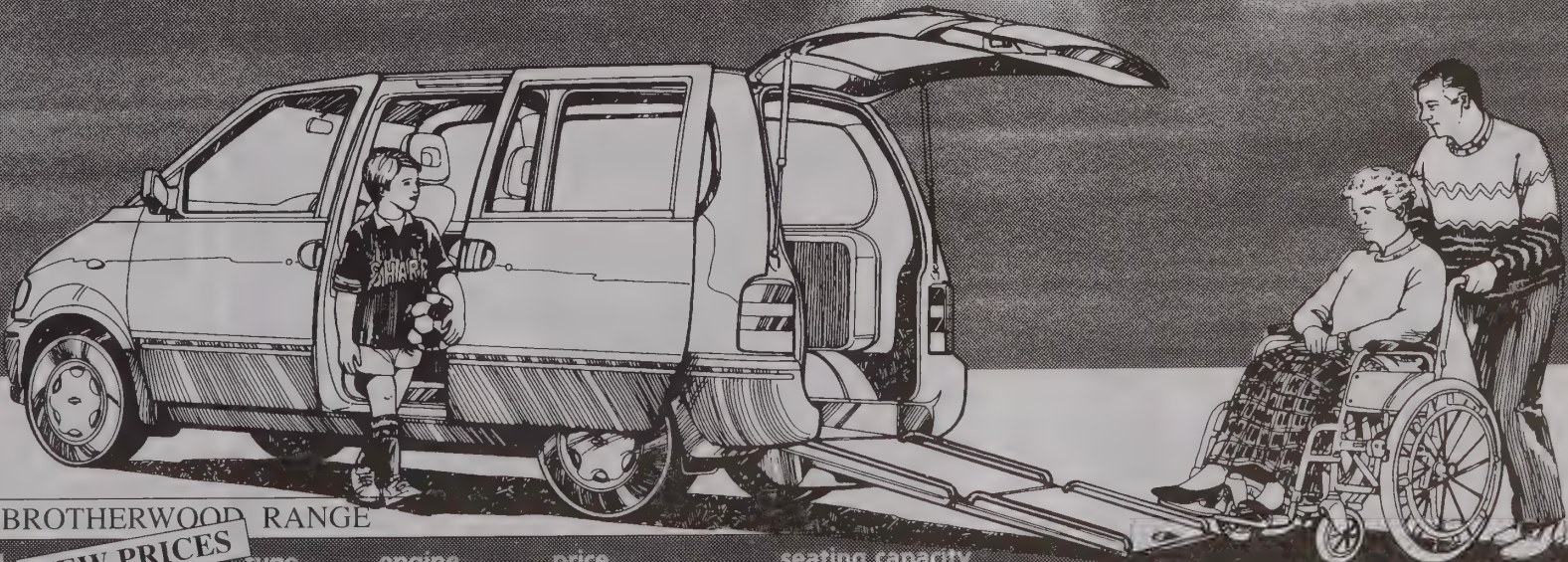
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# She's been down the pit to get to the top

Alison Rowat meets museum director Margaret Faull

Margaret Faull is not the type you'd expect to be in charge of a coal mine. Aside from size, sex and three university degrees, her disability places her as far apart from the stereotypical view of a pit worker as it is possible to get.

But the West Yorkshire Mining Museum, built on the site of Caphouse colliery in Wakefield, is not your average pit and Ms Faull, an industrial archeologist, is its director.

She has spent eight years turning the museum into one

of the region's most popular attractions, and now she wants it to be the national mining museum for England.

The application goes to the Museums and Galleries Commission this month. On its success may depend the museum's future. Under the Coal Industry Act, British Coal's assets transfer to the private sector on Christmas Eve, leaving the museum short of £70,000 a year.

The best part of the museum is the underground

tour, scurrying round tunnels with only a tiny lamp (and a miner) between you and the icy darkness. The worst part is getting underground: stepping into that cage and plunging hundreds of feet into the earth is the stuff of nightmares.

When I confessed how frightening the experience had been, a wry smile came to Margaret Faull's face. Her no-nonsense attitude, originally from Sydney, Australia, has found a true home in Yorkshire.

She wanted to be an archaeologist from the age of three, inspired by museum trips and bedtime stories. "It was a very bad mistake," she laughs. "My parents would have been better off persuading me to be a plumber or a venture capitalist. You can earn lots of money in those, as opposed to a job where there's lots of satisfaction but little pay."

Now 48, she came to England 23 years ago to do a doctorate in archaeology. The only things she misses about down under are her family (she has none here), the weather and the food.

When she became director, she was determined to make the place as accessible as possible. "We asked the access group from Wakefield council to come in. People with every conceivable kind of disability



Margaret Faull: putting anti-discrimination into practice

went round, suggesting what could be done cheaply and what could be done if you had a lot of money." With some exceptions (the manual entrance doors and a small detour for wheelchair users

**"It's a case of give up work and not be in pain, or learn to live with it and go on working"**

during the underground tour), the museum is very accessible, as its ADAPT award testifies.

This shouldn't be surprising since the director is a disabled person. But Margaret Faull only became disabled three years ago. A fall from a horse when she was 23 left one leg three inches shorter than the

other. Over the years, her back became increasingly distorted, finally giving out in 1991. When physiotherapy and an operation had no effect, she resolved to return to work, against doctors' orders.

A stick, a scooter and an automatic car get her around now. She hires someone to do the housework and gardening and pays regular visits to an acupuncturist and a chiropractor.

But there is no escaping the chronic pain. "I can't take a pain killer and work too. It's a case of give up work and not be in pain, or learn to live with it and go on working."

"I must admit, I usually go to bed for an hour each evening after work. I rest a lot at weekends, usually spending a day in bed."

Given her obvious drive and previously active life, I venture that these constraints must be difficult. "I don't let it be frustrating," she responds firmly. "You have to accept that this is what your life is. If you let it frustrate you, you would have the pain and the frustration to live with."

She also used to be very politically active, but being in charge of 45 staff and 80,000 visitors a year leaves little time for that now.

The smile widens when I ask if she'd ever fancy stopping the traffic in Whitehall in support of anti-discrimination legislation. Although she backs the cause, she prefers, as ever, to do her own thing.

As a successful woman in her own right, the director of an accessible museum and an employer who meets her three per cent quota, Margaret Faull more than keeps her end up in the role model stakes.

"There's probably as much value in having people who won't be discriminating against others in positions where they are making the decisions as in doing the campaigning," she says. "There's room for both."

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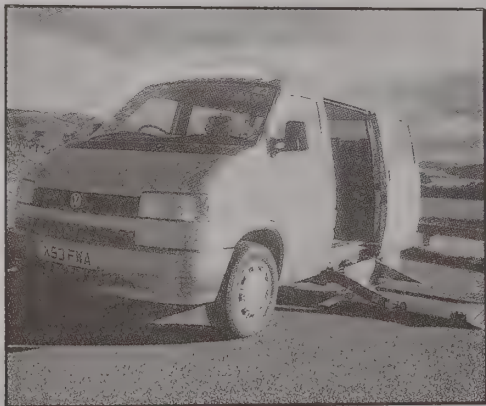
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# Breeding on the 'cheep cheep'

In the first of a new series, Mary Spooner talks about breeding budgies. They're great for company, inexpensive and easy to rear.



ANGELA MARTIN/THE WOMEN'S PRESS

"I want a yellow canary," said my mother-in-law. Grandma had recently moved into our home and we were planning an 80th birthday surprise.

I searched for a canary in local pet shops, but was unable to find one. However, I saw a pure yellow lutino budgie and decided he was the perfect substitute. Little did I realise that a major hobby would develop from this gift. The bird proved to be a hen, and although she gave Grandma hours of pleasure, she never talked or became especially tame.

My son had kept a cock budgie for some time, but it was not until Grandma died that we thought of putting the two birds together to see if they would breed. They preened each other and became great friends, but we were advised that in order to breed



Mary and the breeding cage successfully, we needed to keep another pair nearby to stimulate the others with their chat. We made a double cage, and after several weeks, we watched our first clutch of eggs hatch in the corner of the lounge.

My husband Ken was disabled with rheumatoid arthritis, and when we bought a kit for an outdoor aviary he enjoyed watching the birds from the window. Soon he was fascinated by them, observing their characteristics and selecting suitable breeding pairs.

We were so successful that we had to build a second aviary and sell some of our hand-tame baby birds to finance the hobby. Ken kept all the details on his computer and we bred over 300 birds in 12 years. Although Ken could no longer leave the house, people used to call to buy birds, and he enjoyed sharing some of the knowledge we had gained.

The needs of a budgie are simple. He will respond to care and attention, perch on your finger or learn to talk.

A young cock bird is usually more adaptable. You can buy him from a pet shop – prices vary from £8 to £12 unless you are looking for an exhibition-type bird – but you may be sold an older bird who will not become tame.

If you want to buy a pair of birds, to be company for one another, then age is less important. They will not breed without a nesting box, and, if you are out a lot, will keep each other company.

## Shiny black buttons

You can recognise a baby budgie in different ways. Most have bar-markings across the head, which recede at about 12 weeks. Their eyes resemble shiny black buttons, with no white ring circling the iris. The ring develops also at about 12 weeks.

A baby cock will have a mauve tint to his cere (the soft part above the beak) which will develop into a beautiful blue as he matures.

A baby hen may have a light blue cere at first, but the nostrils are whitened and the cere will gradually turn buff-coloured, and then crusty brown. She will also be more inclined to give you a sharp nip when handled.

The cage costs about £24, unless you can get hold of a secondhand one. It should be oblong, with two wooden



Two little dicky birds ... one named Peter, one named Paul

perches spaced apart, and have a swing. At the bottom there should be a removable tray for easy cleaning.

Your bird will need exercise and, once he is tame, he will enjoy being let out when windows are secure. Position the cage to avoid draughts and sunlight.

## Mirror talk

Do not clutter the cage with too many toys. A young bird can break his neck weaving in and out of the steps of a ladder. A mirror will encourage him to chatter to himself, and give him security. The ladder would do better as a landing platform

outside the cage, when you let your bird out.

To begin finger training, sit with your hand in the cage during the evening, when the bird is getting ready to rest. Extend your index finger under the breast and immediately over the feet, pushing gently, so that he steps onto your finger.

Bring him to the side of your finger and repeat simple phrases. Choose a name with a marked consonant sound, such as Billy or Peter. Some folk even leave a tape recorder near the cage repeating simple phrases.

Although it may take several

weeks, the bird will usually make some attempt to imitate, and may become very proficient. He may even learn nursery rhymes and simple phrases.

## What's on the menu?

Boxed budgie seed is best as open seed may be contaminated with mice urine. Millet sprays are favourite treats. Cuttlefish should be fixed onto the side of the cage, and a block of pink iodine for extra calcium. Grit is essential for digestion. Clean water should always be available. Avoid too many treats, especially damp lettuce, which can cause intestinal problems. Avoid anything sprayed by a gardener.

A healthy bird will be lively and alert, and sleep on one leg, with his head turned back. He will chirp happily and respond to conversation or music. His droppings will be dry, black and white. If they become green and loose, he is unwell and will show signs of distress. You should cover the cage and give him constant extra warmth.

Budgies are hardy and usually easy to rear. They live about ten years and can be a real and inexpensive source of interest and companionship. So, what about a budgie?

*Budgerigar Society, £5 annual subscription, tel: (0604) 24549.*

**Do you have an unusual or interesting hobby? Write to DN (address page 2) and you could find yourself in print.**

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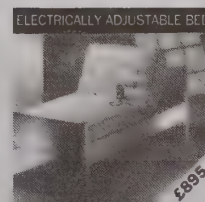
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# Share Your Problems

## Christmas – a time for God or goodies?



Ann Darnbrough, DN. 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

What mixed emotions we all have about Christmas. I have a good friend who, while enjoying life to the full all the rest of the year, can't bear the "C" word. Instead we have to say "shhh, you know what".

Myself, I rather enjoy this season of bad taste. It's fun decking my home in tinsel and trash for a short time and letting the children loose with party poppers.

Festival time is a great opportunity to enjoy ourselves, whatever the religion or lack of it. I remember in India having a great time at the festival of Diwali where Hindus generously share their joy with anybody and everybody.

The problem for many people in this country is the incompatibility of mixing a serious religious festival with all the frivolity. Should it be a time of God or of goodies? John Mortimer, lawyer and writer, says he doesn't believe in God, but that he doesn't have a total faith in his unbelief: "It's more that if God did exist, I'm not sure I'd like Him."

It's not only at Christmas

time that some Christians face problems.

In response to a mention in this column of disabled gay men and lesbians some time ago, I was reminded by Mary that there is a wide spectrum of opinion about homosexuality within the Christian community.

She is right of course.

### 'We are left very often picking up the pieces ... of failure and guilt' – Richard Kirker

Broadly, there seem to be three very divergent points of view. The first, and most prevalent, is that homosexuality is wrong. The second is that homosexual natures can be accepted but physical expression must be denied, as argued by the True Freedom Trust (TFT).

#### A gay Christmas

The third, the view of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM), is that "human sexuality in all its richness is a gift of God gladly to be accepted, enjoyed and honoured as a way of both expressing and growing in love, in accordance with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ".

Mary's letter plumped for the second option, one which you may think puts homosexuality on a par with impairment, as something to be overcome.

This trust, I learn, believes that "God can change people's feelings – directly through the Holy Spirit and with the healing He often brings through counselling and therapy.

"For some, a change in sexual orientation may occur. For others, healing comes in finding acceptance and peace about their sexual orientation and learning how to live sexually fulfilled lives within marriage or celibate lives outside".

Richard Kirker of the LGCM reacts angrily to such views: "We are left very often picking up the pieces left in the trail of the inevitable sense

of failure and guilt which the TFT is prone to induce in those who seek (misguidedly in our opinion) help.

"I have to say that it is LGCM's view that recommending organisations like the trust carries an unacceptably high level of risk for the genuine well-being of potential users and clients. They do not conform to the guidelines of bona-fide counselling organisations like the British Association for Counselling, for instance."

With doctors being so poor at helping us with the aches and pains brought on by our disabilities, is it any wonder we turn to alternative

## BT FUNDS UNIQUE SERVICE

BT's Community Programme has agreed to fund the DN telephone counselling service at a total cost of £13,500

over three years. This means that Lin Berwick's unique service can continue. Our grateful thanks to BT.

Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher and qualified homeopath. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems.

Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

therapists to seek help?

As reader Max says: "Alternative therapies can be very attractive compared with orthodox medicine. Therapists, with more time to discuss our complete situation, and with a 'hands on' approach rather than the GP's 'hands on computer' approach, can make us feel so much happier."

However, as Max goes on to warn from his own personal experience, there are dangers in placing all our faith in therapists: "Feeling happier is not the same as being better. In serious conditions (cancer for example), the sad fact is that alternative therapies have not been proved to work.

#### Dangers of therapy

"When I was suffering with severe lower back pain, I tried osteopathy, the Alexander technique and physiotherapy over a period of almost a year. Although I felt better for having tried these treatments, and for the comforting one-to-one care, the fact is they only succeeded in prolonging my illness. How? Because by easing my symptoms of pain

and debility I and my GP were misled into believing I had found a cure.

"Orthodox medicine eventually discovered that my pain was caused by a tumour, and over the period I had been trying alternatives it had grown in size so much I was within months of death.

"Only major surgery followed by radiation was then able to save me."

As Max goes on to say, "Delay in seeking tried and approved orthodox treatment for people with serious illness can be very dangerous indeed."

Yes, but the problem is knowing when we have a serious illness.

#### Audio answer to pain

Many people go to alternative therapists because they have chronic pain and are in despair. So I was particularly glad to hear from Wendy Lloyd who wrote to tell me about her audio tapes which can help with a variety of problems, including pain.

Once you have checked out that there is nothing life threatening behind your symptoms and been told the pain is likely to stay, then a system for coping with the pain has to be planned.

A visit to a pain clinic is essential if this can possibly be arranged. After that you may find the tape *Coping with Pain* helpful. It is based on pain programme techniques practised at the famous Walton Centre in Liverpool.

Wendy Lloyd also has tapes on coping with depression, anxiety, headaches and migraine, and back pain.

Whatever your ways of coping with what life throws at you, do write and let me know so that we can share your ideas in this column. I always answer letters personally.

Wendy Lloyd Audio Productions, PO Box 1, Wirral L47 7DD, tel: 051-632 1206/0662. Each tape £7.55 inc. p&sp. Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2 6HG, tel: 071-739 1249. Helpline: 071-587 1235. True Freedom Trust, PO Box 3, Upton, Wirral, Merseyside L49 6NY, tel: 051-653 0773.

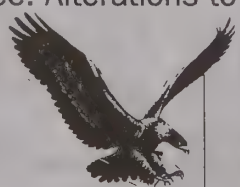
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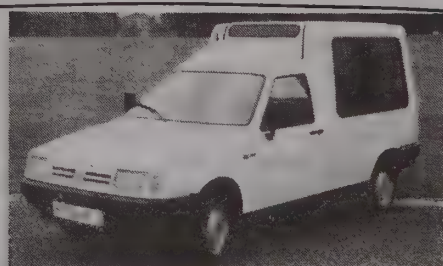


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# Whose face is it anyway?

Answers below



## TRIVIA QUIZ

Answers on page 31

1. What makes corn pop?
2. What is the ninth sign of the Zodiac?
3. Which American tennis player was nicknamed "Little Mo"?
4. Which British celebrity tycoon will star in *Baywatch*?
5. What is a female donkey called?
6. Who hosts *A Question of Sport*?
7. What major contribution to motoring did Percy Shaw make?
8. Who said "a week in politics is a long time"?
9. Which way does the Jack of Hearts normally face in a pack of cards?
10. Who wrote *The Last of the Mohicans*?

## JOKING-A-SIDE

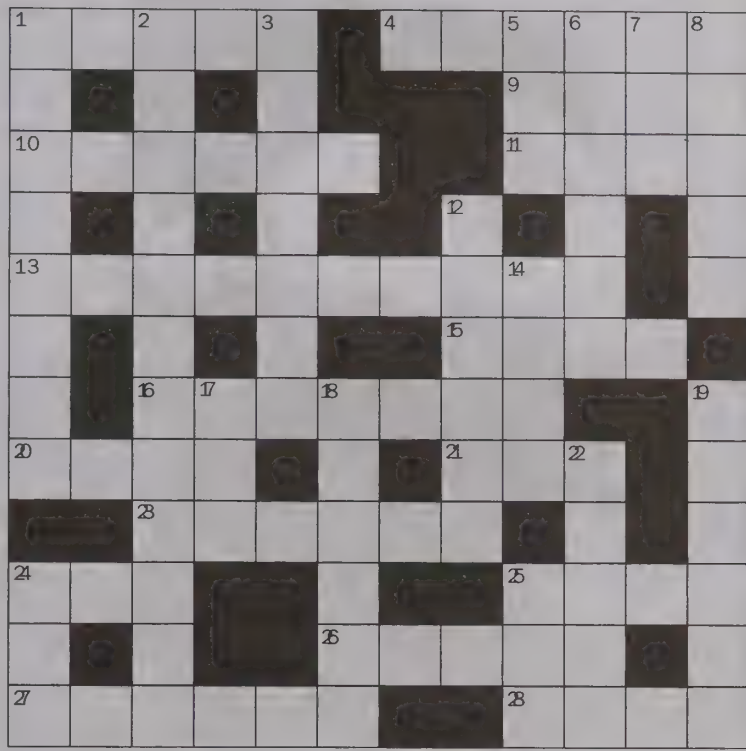
What's the best thing to put into a mince pie? *Your teeth.*  
What do you give a train driver for Christmas? *Platform shoes.*

Whose Face is it Anyway?  
(from top): Paul McCartney,  
Rosemary Ford, Marjé  
Troops and David Jacobs.

## DN's crossword

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

Answers on page 31



## ACROSS

1. New name of The Spastics Society (5)
4. Digit (6)
9. Region or space (4)
10. Old Testament woman (6)
11. Lock or run (4)
13. Thought of a mirror? (10)
15. Open air swimming pool (4)
16. Home for 24 down (7)
20. Wise person (4)
21. Centre of a storm (3)
23. Assassin (6)
24. Tray or Wednesday (3)
25. Skin or throw (4)
26. Go in (5)
27. Gave away a tenth of one's income (6)
28. Round piece of rubber (4)

## DOWN

1. Committee or wheel (8)
2. Too far away to hear (3,2,7)
3. Set veer (anag)
5. Seize (3)
6. Run god (anag)
7. Slippery customer (3)
8. Tread (anag)
12. Assassin (6)
14. Greasy (4)
17. Religious woman (3)
18. Jumped on one leg (6)
19. Annoy stingingly? (6)
22. Each (5)
24. Insect (3)
25. Cat or dog (3)

**We've got it taped** by Jeff Labrecque

Did you know that *DN* is available on tape for visually impaired people or for those who have difficulty holding a paper? At the moment this service is free of charge, contact Helen Crow, tel: 071-383 4575.



# Create-a-caption

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**The Spastics Society's relaunch on 3 November was a red letter day for Postal Officer Tony**

**Ridgley. What could Tony be saying as he salutes the charity's name change to Scope? Answers to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, by 9 December.**

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# Constables



## WHAT'S ON

**Designing for Disabled People**, a series of workshops in Manchester, starts on 1 December with Kitchen Design – general principles and Bathroom Design – basic considerations. £10 per session, £17.50 for both. Other workshops include Pain and Stress Relieving Techniques and Autohypnosis and Deep Relaxation. Contact Brenda Dickinson, Disabled Living, tel: 061-832 3678.

**Cost Effective Care of Older People**, a conference for professionals on 7-8 December in London. £193.88. Details from Nicky Forrest, tel: 071-836 6633 ext 2593.

**The Voluntary Sector Lobby Conference**, an opportunity for professionals to discuss the implications of the Budget and Queen's speech for voluntary organisations, on 6 December in London. Details from Eva Bennett, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), tel: 071-713 6161.

**Getting the Message Across**, a conference on advocacy for service providers on 6-7 December in London. £35. Contact Greater London Association of Disabled People, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel/minicom: 071-274 0107.

**Work-out on Wheels**, a one-hour, seated fitness workout for women wheelchair users on 11 December in London. £3.50. Details from Julia Mason, tel: 071-267 8801/071-284 0004.

**Elder Abuse: what role for the voluntary sector?** A conference for professionals on 13 December in London. £80, £65 voluntary organisations. Contact Claire Brooke, Age Concern England, tel: 081-679 8000.

**Incapacity Benefit - getting to grips with the changes**, a course for professionals on 13 December in London. £50-£90. Details from Vincent Luttmann, Disability Alliance, tel: 071-247 8776.

**Mobility Matters**, an exhibition of products and services for disabled people, professionals and carers on 18-19 January in Liverpool. Free. Contact RLP Event Management, tel: (0775) 680626.

**Managing the Present, Planning for the Future**, a conference for voluntary organisations on 25-26 January in London. Details from Margaret Hourigan, NCVO, tel: 071-713 6161 ext 204.



**Festive fun:** *The Christmas Fundraising Guide* is a 24-page booklet on raising money for charity during the festive season. Free, from Baker Ross, tel: 081-808 6948.

## INFO

**Disability Network** is a support group for visually impaired people and their families. It runs a helpline (*number below*) and publishes a taped magazine called *Parent*. Details from Brian Hartgen, Disability Network, 8 Wolverhampton House, 123 Church Street, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 1AJ, tel: (0744) 451215.

**The Buyer's Guide to Shower Toilets - questions you should consider** is a booklet for anyone who is considering the installation of a shower toilet. It covers installation and location in the home, the water bylaw requirements and how to operate the equipment. Free, from Total Hygiene, 2 Newton Street, Stretford, Manchester M32 8LG, tel: 061-866 8080.

**Applications are invited for the 1995 International Air Tattoo Flying Scholarships for Disabled People.** Full details from Wing Commander John Patterson, tel: (0285) 713300.

**What Money Can I Get If I Am 16 or 17?** is a welfare rights leaflet for young people living in London. Free, from libraries in London, or Camden Welfare Rights Unit, Freeport, Bidborough House, Bidborough Street, London WC1H.

**The 1994/5 Directory for Deaf and Deaf/Blind People**

lists 200 sign language interpreters, lipspeakers and interpreters for deaf/blind people. £12, from the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People, tel: 091-374 3607.

**Image-Building and Money-Raising for Hard to Sell Groups** is a book on fundraising for "less appealing" causes. It covers door-to-door collections, sponsored events and case studies. £9.95 (plus £2.50 p&p), from Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL, tel: 071-284 4364.

**The Directory of Cancer Support and Self-Help 1995** is for anyone working or living with cancer. It lists more than 500 groups offering practical help as well as individuals and specialist groups offering one-to-one support. Free for people with cancer, otherwise £5 from, CancerLink, 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN, tel: 071-833 2818.

## HELP!

**Rebecca Patterson**, a MPhil research student, has just begun a two-year research project on fashion and disabled people. Readers who have any comments on fashion and clothing design, and would like to be interviewed should contact Rebecca at the Royal College of Art, Fashion and Textiles Department, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU.

To place an item in our Help column, send a £5 cheque made payable to DN, address page 2.

## APPOINTMENTS

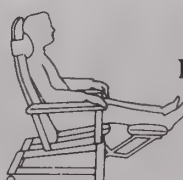
**Robert Hancock**, formerly director of operations for Scope (The Spastics Society) has been appointed chief executive of The David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy. Lord Sterling succeeds Lord Goodman as chairman of Motability.

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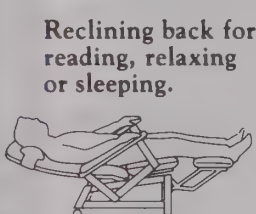
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## Arty facts

**Hear no Evil**, a Liverpool arts project for people with hearing impairments, is inviting deaf artists (especially from the north west) to submit work which reflects their experience of deafness. Contact Rebecca Doughty, tel: 051-707 1733. Deadline: 31 January 1995.

**News for People with Disabilities** is a leaflet covering events from December 1994 to February 1995 at the Royal Opera House. Free, from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD, tel: 071-240 1200.

**Tullie House Museum** in Carlisle has a sound guide for visually impaired people. Centring on the Museum's Roman displays, the voice of a Roman soldier talks about exhibits which can be handled. Tel: (0228) 34781.

**ARTSLINE** has an information pack for theatres on how they can make their venue more accessible for disabled people. It covers special equipment, raising money for adaptations and organising disability equality training. Free, from ARTSLINE, 54 Charlton Street, London NW1 1HS, tel: 071-388 2227.

**English National Opera** is asking visually impaired people to take part in an audio-questionnaire on audio-described performances. To contribute, contact Sarah Bedell, Audience Development, tel: 071-836 0111 ext 455.

**Disability Action** is a new teletext magazine on London Weekend Television covering disability issues, arts and entertainment in the capital. It runs from 5.10pm on Friday to 6am Monday, pages 633-634. If you have any information to

## Video top five

1. **MRS DOUBTFIRE** (Fox): Robin Williams cross-dresses to great comic effect. ☒
2. **FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL** (Columbia): Record-breaking whimsical British comedy starring Hugh Grant. ☒
3. **JURASSIC PARK** (CIC): Big-budget monster movie from big kid film maker - Spielberg. ☐
4. **STRIKING DISTANCE** (Columbia): Bruce Willis as cop-tracking serial killer. ☒
5. **PELICAN BRIEF** (Warner): Julia Roberts is hunted for exposing murder. ☒

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart courtesy of MRIB.

include, send it to Disability Action, 27 Veal's Mead, Mitcham, Surrey SR4 3SB.

**Bambi and Aladdin** are now available on audio-described video. Contact the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), tel: 071-388 2034.

A list of theatres offering audio-described Christmas pantomimes is available in large print/braille from the RNIB, tel: 071-388 1266.

## Look out for

**Ubu from Graecae Theatre Company**, runs from 8 to 18 December at the Oval House Arts Centre, London and tours nationally until March 1994. Box Office, tel: 081-555 7289.

**Artability** is an exhibition of disabled people's work, from 1 to 11 December at the Arthouse Gallery, Lewisham, London. Tel: 081-694 9011.



**Let's dance: Chance to Choose**, a group run by people with disabilities in Sheffield, provides arts-based workshops in music, photography, dance and drama. It also produces a monthly video magazine and makes low-budget, community video films. Tel: (0742) 798131.

**The Workhouse Disability Cabaret** features poetry, comedy and signed song. 4 December, Croydon. £4. Croydon Association of People with Disabilities, tel: 081-680 7004.

A Signed performance of **The Wizard of Oz** will take place on 19 December at the Palace Theatre, Southend-on-Sea. Box Office, tel: (0702) 347816.

**Shirley Klein**, American poet and songwriter, is touring Britain in December. For dates, contact Joe Hamilton, Very Special Arts, tel: 081-780 0554.

An Audio-described performance of Puccini's **La Traviata** takes place on 16 December at the Royal Opera House, London. Box Office, tel: 071-212 9307.

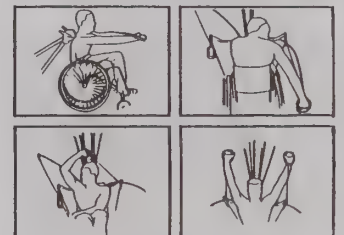
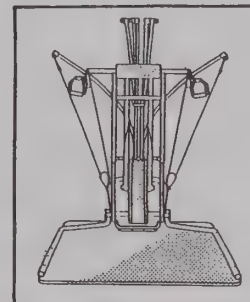
**The Night Before Christmas** by Chicken Shed, an integrated theatre company, runs from 19 December to 7 January in Southgate, London. £7.50/£5.50. Box Office, tel: 081-342 0671.

**Showcase of Sounds**, by The Drake Music Project takes place on 1 December at the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, London. Free. Tel: 071-250 3288.

**Techniques of casting sculpture in plaster** is a signed talk by Trevor Landell, a deaf artist, on 11 February at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Free. Tel: 071-938 8634/8508.

**Theatre Workshops for disabled people** are being run by New Breed Theatre Company in Manchester. Free. Tel: 061-236 1676.

## WORK OUT IN YOUR CHAIR VERSATRAINER



The Versatrainer reduces a roomful of fitness equipment to one complete work out centre. A full exercise program can take as little as 20 minutes. And the silent rods are a big improvement over clanking weights.

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DN12/94

## THE ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT TVS BRACE FOR ARTHRITIC KNEES

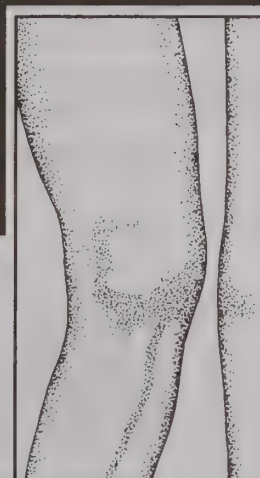
TELESCOPIC VALGUS (KNOCK KNEE) / VARUS (BOW LEG) SUPPORT

The primary function of the brace is to align or straighten the limb, which may have deformed to a bow or knock knee position, due to weakness of the joint. This is usually caused by an arthritic condition, resulting in pain or undue aching when standing or walking. The brace gives full freedom of leg movement and in many cases helps with hyperextension, where the knee allows the leg to bend to the rear.

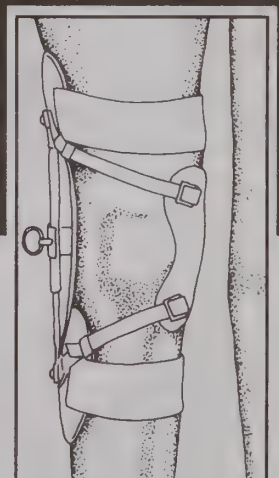


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Unit 4, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO1 6RB  
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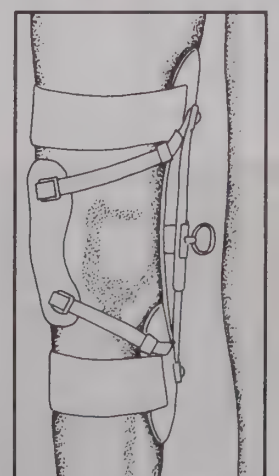
Knock Knee (Valgus) Before



Knock Knee (Valgus) After



Bow Leg (Varus) Before



Bow Leg (Varus) After







PERSONAL

In A Crisis

Helplessness • Anxiety • Anger • Sadness • Hurt • Fear • Despair •

It does help to talk about it. Please Phone, Visit or Write.

The Samaritans

Any Time, Anywhere. We're in the phone book.

For Personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

45-YEAR-OLD ASIAN GENTLEMAN (divorced) looking to make new male and female friends. (Eager to have good company over the festive season.) Well-educated, disabled, but mobile (car driver). Interests include science, chess and visiting museums and exhibitions. London area please. Box No. 751.

BLONDE FEMALE, 30, living in Wiltshire. I have a disability (brittle bones) and use a wheelchair, but I am very mobile. Own home, car and in full-time employment. GSOH, enjoys socialising and most types of music. I have lots of male friends, but I am still looking for a 21-35-year-old Mr Right! Photo appreciated. Will reply to all. Box No. 752.

WILLY, SINGLE MALE, 48, walks with zimmer, has cp, lives in Tayside. Regular church goer, loves horse riding and country music. Seeks lady with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, possible romance. Box No. 753.

*Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.*

FOR SALE cont

VOLVO 340 GL, F reg, red, auto, 1400cc, full hand controls, one owner, 3,100 miles, MOT until August 1995, £3,195 ono. Tel: (0243) 374880.

TWO MINIVATOR cable stairlifts, all offers considered. Also, Dolphin shower unit, all offers considered. Tel: 081-946 0542.

EXCHANGE

COLT TRICYCLE, suitable for eight-year-old boy, bought 1992, £550, exchange for a trike to fit 10-year-old boy. Contact Mrs Hancock, tel: (0789) 297616 Stratford-upon-Avon.

SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT!

Do you have a story to tell about a special relationship? Once again, *DN* is on the look out for relationship features - however romantic, poignant or downright soppy. Did you meet your partner in unusual circumstances? Was it love at first sight? What makes your relationship extra special? If you can help, contact the Editor, *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 071-636 5020.

CARING DISABLED LADY, 51, lives in Shropshire, likes life, and is a good listener. Has difficulty walking far. Would like to meet or write to honest and caring male. Car owner/smoker. Box No. 754.

ARE YOU FEMALE, 22-28, single, and would like a relationship with a genuine guy? I am 27, disabled with cp, Christian, have much to offer given the chance. I have a sarcastic sense of humour, but am understanding and a good listener. I enjoy videos, going to the cinema and talking. If you live around Nottingham, disabled or not, please drop me a line with a photo. Box No. 755.

GAY GUY, 40, slim build, mild disability, but fully mobile, seeks new friends. Into music, travel, socialising and other wide interests. Also seeking special relationship. Friendly, easy-going, reliable and genuine. Box No. 756.

53-YEAR-OLD MALE, slim build, walks with aid of crutches, many interests. Has lots of TLC to lavish on the right young lady (able-bodied or disabled), who must be caring, genuine and looking for friendship/possible relationship. Box No. 757.

GAY, CREATIVE and living in Sussex would like to meet similar minded male, 18-40, with or without a disability for indoor and outdoor entertainment (depending on the weather). Must have GSOH, be sincere and positive - being broadminded would be a bonus! I do have a disability but am otherwise healthy. I drive and am interested in the arts. Looking forward to hearing from you ... Box No. 758.

SINGLE LADY, 41, with cp (gets about with walking stick), would like to meet a kind, caring gentleman to share my interests of the theatre, cinema and archery, etc. Come on, I'm waiting for you ... All letters will be answered. Box No. 759.

"CRASHED MALE", 29, recently disabled in bike accident, getting mobile now with leg braces, would like to hear from lady who may be able to help me get more out of life. Interests include travel, photography, music and, now, fast cars. Go ahead, make my day, drop me a letter. Box No. 760.

MALE, 29, with spina bifida (wheelchair user, able-bodied from the waist up) currently studying for an Open University degree. I enjoy the cinema, theatre, concerts, meals out, driving, travelling and socialising at the pub. I would like to meet a caring and able-bodied/disabled female, 20-35, with understanding of my disability (hopefully developing into a relationship). Please send a photo. Box No. 761.

HI, I'M AN AMERICAN LADY, 28, with cp, interests include painting, gardening, swimming and helping out at the local theatre. Is there a British guy (25-40) out there who would like to be my penfriend? Box No. 762.

DISABLED MALE, 63, seeks friendly, caring companion for conversation and the simple things in life. Car/home owner, enjoys going out for pub meals, walking the dog and television. Wife died five-years-ago, lonely ever since. Warwickshire. Box No. 763.

29-YEAR-OLD MALE with muscular dystrophy seeks afro-Caribbean/mixed race female, 18-30, with a physical disability for friendship and possible relationship. I am very down-to-earth and have a broad range of interests such as music, eating and drinking out, the cinema and concerts. Looks and type of disability are unimportant to me, so please feel free to get in touch. Box No. 764.

BRITISH-BORN ASIAN MALE, 24, is looking to meet an able-bodied man, Asian or non-Asian, 25-30, who is sincere, successful and good humoured for companionship, wining and dining and perhaps more? Photo appreciated. Box No. 765.

*To reply to a Personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥  
**Calling all romantics ...**  
... do you have a special Valentine's Day message to send to a loved one?

For the first time, *DN* is asking readers to send in their messages to lovers, carers or special friends. Just send in your greeting (30 words max) with a cheque for £3 (payable to *Disability Now*), mark your envelope "February message", and look out for it in *DN*'s February relationships feature.  
*All messages must be received by 9 January 1995.*

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Towards reflective practice

Marylebone Centre Trust and the University of Westminster have joined forces to offer a range of innovative programmes with: a common philosophy for experienced workers of all disciplines in the fields of community care and primary health. Intakes usually occur in September and February.

- MA Community & Primary Health Care\*
- MSc General Practice & Primary Health\*
- MA Community Observation\*
- MA Community Development\*
- MA Therapeutic Bodywork\*\*
- BA Therapeutic Massage\*\*
- MSc Complementary Therapy\*\*

\*Thursdays \*\*Tuesdays, February intake only  
Centre for Community Care & Primary Health, University of Westminster, 33 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9FB. Telephone 0171 255 3550.

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BLAGDON FARM COUNTRY HOLIDAYS DEVON

New, luxury bungalows, overlooking 2.5 acre lake and set in 38 acres picturesque countryside. Nature trail, adventure playground, pet's corner and covered games area. For brochure contact Pauline & Tony Blight, Ashwater, Beaworthy, DEVON, EX21 5DF. Phone: 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510.

MAR Y SOL - TENERIFE

Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for cheapest prices on flights. Video available.

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or small friendly hotel with adapted rooms. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX. Tel: (0753) 685718.

**NORTH WALES:** Luxury fully accessible two bedroom bungalow, two bathrooms, sleeps four/five, Mold, Clwyd. £240 weekly. Mrs Dowling, 23 Gleneagles Road, Great Sutton, South Wirral L66 4NF (Tel: 051-339 5316)

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners" Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure. R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (0208) 850277 or 850617.

DRIVE OR RIDE FROM YOUR WHEELCHAIR: VANFARE USA IS RUN BY TETRAPLEGIC BEVERLY NAMECHE WHO CAN ADVISE ON WHAT VAN TO BUY, SUITABLE ADAPTATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED. COMPETITIVE PRICES ON ALL MAKES INCLUDING CHRYSLER VOYAGER AND FORD. FOR INFORMATION OR A VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND WRITE VANFARE USA, 11 SCHOOL STREET, ESSEX, MA 01929. TEL: 0101 508 768 6228. FAX: 0101 508 768 6404.

**BRITTANY COTTAGE** to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

FULL ACCESS FOR WHEELCHAIR. 3 bedroom bungalow, double-glazed, large fitted kitchen, gas central heating and car port. Close to Brookfield Farm, shopping and schools in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. £86,500. Tel: (0992) 637621.

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GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS  
SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR  
THE DISABLED

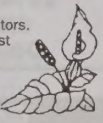
Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT  
**Telephone: 0598 710241**  
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available.  
**Please contact: Valerie Boddington**

**Scottish Highlands, Strathspey**  
Newly restored traditional cottage in peaceful village. Spacious, sunny, warm. Sleeps 5. Tourist Board "5 Crowns Highly Commended, Access Category 2". Pinewoods, wildlife and bird-watching, pavement from garden gate. Details Mrs Valerie Dean, Badanhuarain Nethybridge PH25 3ED. 0479 821642 or 0381 620802.

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA.**  
DISABLED TRAVELLERS DON'T MISS THIS SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT). CABLE TV. TELEPHONE. COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP. 10 MINS AIRPORT. 15 MINS DISNEY. MEET 'N' GREET SERVICE AVAILABLE. PARAPLEGIC OWNER, SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE, BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT. TEL/FAX: 061 792 3029.

Llandeilo, West Wales. 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.

**Picturesque COTTAGES**  
in rural GLOUCESTERSHIRE.  
One for accompanied disabled visitors. Self-Catering - Provisions by request  
**2 miles off Junction 13 M5.**  
Booking & Brochure  
Tel: (0452) 740204  
Write: Teesdale, Whitminster GL2 7PN



**To advertise your property for sale, please use the form on page 28. The cost is £3 per line.**

RECRUITMENT

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

Student Services

Disabilities Co-ordinator

(one year full-time post)

Salary £16,701 - £20,913 (inclusive)

The London Institute is seeking to appoint a person strongly motivated in the area of special needs to take a leading role in the management and development of provision for students with disabilities in both a further and higher education context. The post is initially for one year and will include the management of a new Dyslexia Support project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council.

The person appointed will have a proven track record of both involvement and achievement in the field of disability and possess excellent interpersonal skills, preferably demonstrated within a large organisational structure. Additionally, although not essential, knowledge of Dyslexia and the issues surrounding this for students pursuing a broad Art/Design career would be desirable.

For further details and an application form, please contact: Helen McGovern, Student Services, The London Institute, 388-396 Oxford Street, London, W1R 1FE. Telephone: 071 514 6000 ext. 6230

The London Institute Higher Education Corporation is an equal opportunities employer.



# 30 CLASSIFIED

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Anybody - Any Age - Anywhere  
Able-bodied or Disabled.  
Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship.  
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Tel: 0606 49093 (24hrs).



**Handicate** wishes all their  
clients and prospective clients  
a very Happy Christmas  
The Wellington Centre  
52 Chevallier Street  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.  
Telephone: (0473) 226950.

081-958 9657  
Dates for the Social  
36 Park Grove for the Disabled contacts  
Edgware A better life provided.  
Middlesex HA8 7SJ (All areas)

## MOTOR INSURANCE

### The "Access" Policy

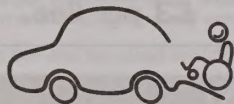
A unique contract specially  
designed for owners of  
vehicles converted to carry  
wheelchair passengers.  
Substantial premium savings -  
up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact  
**CHARD INSURANCE SERVICES**  
(REGISTERED BROKERS),  
15 HOLYROOD STREET,  
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0460 61373/62148

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Did you know that DN  
is a non-profit making  
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cheque payable to  
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W1N 4EQ.

## WANTED

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE vehicle  
similar to Chairman Escort, Seat, Astra  
etc. Please phone with details, tel: 081-207  
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CAR OR VAN with one wheelchair space  
and four to five seats. Must have good  
visibility from wheelchair position, low  
mileage and be in good condition.  
Tel: (0908) 569503.

To place an item in  
"Wanted", use the form  
on page 28. The cost is  
£3 a line.

## RECRUITMENT

 **EDITOR** (SO1£16-7k)

A disabled person is required from 1 April 1995.  
Full details from DAM (Jobs), 10 Woad Lane, Great Coates,  
GRIMSBY DN37 9NH on receipt of a sae.  
Closing date 23 January 1995

The Access Committee for England (ACE) promotes the provision of  
accessible indoor and outdoor environments enabling disabled people to  
achieve their full potential and enter into public, social, intellectual, business  
and recreational life. As part of the continuing development of our services,  
we are now seeking to recruit a:

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Local Access Groups

Initial fixed-term contract - 12 months Flexible working hours Fixed fee - £12k

This key appointment, sponsored by Charity Projects and The Guide Dogs for  
the Blind Association, will involve the implementation of proposals resulting  
from our recent national research project on local access groups, including  
organising regional meetings of existing groups and developing new access  
group networks in rural areas, as well as designing and producing  
training/information material.

The successful applicant will have a sound knowledge of disability and access  
issues, effective written and verbal communication skills and proven  
organisational and co-ordinating abilities. Established presentation skills and a  
sound working knowledge of word processing would be a distinct advantage.  
You must also be able to travel extensively throughout the country.

If you have the special blend of skills, attitudes, and experience that we are  
looking for, then please telephone 071 250 0008 or minicom  
071 250 4119, or alternatively, write for an application pack (available in  
braille, large print and cassette) to: Access Committee for England,  
12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF.

Closing date: 6th January 1995  
Interviews: 23rd January 1995



ACE is committed to equal opportunities

## TENANTS' RIGHTS WORKER (COMMUNITY)

Till April 1996; £14,574; 28 hours

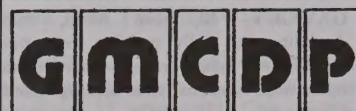
SALFORD LAW CENTRE needs someone with paid or unpaid experience of  
housing advice/campaigning to develop the community work aspects of our  
housing work. You will be supported by our housing solicitor (part-time).

The post will involve working for & with tenants, enabling groups to tackle  
their landlords, and dealing with equal opportunities issues in housing.

Closing date 8/12/94; Interview 15 & 16/12/94

For further details, access info & application form:-  
SALFORD LAW CENTRE, 498 Liverpool St, Salford M6 5QZ,  
tel/minicom 061-7363116 (Janine).

We are seeking to be an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from  
women, black people, disabled people, and others who face discrimination.



The Greater Manchester  
Coalition of Disabled People  
is recruiting for:

## INFORMATION WORKER - CORE TEAM

SCALE 6 (spc 26), £14,319 - 32 hrs per week pro rata £13,091

You will need the skills to: develop and maintain the extensive information  
base of GMCDP, produce the regular information bulletin, respond to  
information requests and to develop the information/publications project.

## CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE DISABILITY ACTION TRAINING PROJECT

SCALE 5/6 (spc 22-26), £12,624 - £14,319 - 35 hrs per week.

The DAT Project provides training to organisations in the statutory, voluntary  
and private sector and free training for disabled people. You will need the  
skills to co-ordinate, organise and develop a project and the skill to  
'generate income' to operate the project.

An understanding of the politics of disability is essential for both posts.

Please send for information, stating which position you are interested in and  
if braille or large print is required, to: GMCDP, Carisbrooke, Wenlock Way,  
Gorton, Manchester M12 5LF.

The closing date for applications for both posts is Tuesday January 3rd 1995.  
Interviews will be held: week beginning 16th January 1995.

### ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY:

GMCDP particularly welcomes applications from black and minority ethnic  
disabled people, as they are currently under represented in the organisation.

## AVON COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

requires a disabled person  
for the post of

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT ADVISOR

Salary: £16,248 - £17,325 (full time)

to join the Independent Living Scheme in Avon  
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people who wish to operate their own  
Self Operated Personal Assistance Scheme.

Closing date: 20th January

For further information contact: Wendy Lee, ACODP,  
6 Sommerville Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 9AA.  
Tel: (0117) 9420721 (voice and minicom)

ACODP is striving to become an Equal Opportunities Employer and particularly  
welcomes applications from disabled people who face simultaneous oppression.

## FOR THE BEST IN TEACHING HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART

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It's only fitting that one of the largest education departments in the country offers a vast range of teaching opportunities.  
We can provide newly qualified and experienced teachers with a whole spectrum of career options in primary,  
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- in-service training programmes
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- a comprehensive road, rail and air links
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Convention Centre, National Indoor Arena, art  
galleries, museums and the Midland Arts Centre.

If you'd like to find out more, please phone for a copy of our brochure and an application form on 021-235  
2289/2369/4974 (24 hour answerphone) Minicom service available on 021-785 0576 or complete the coupon and post  
today. Also available on tape, braille or large print.

I am interested in teaching in Birmingham. Please send me further information and an application form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery ☐ Infant ☐ Junior ☐ Secondary ☐ Special ☐  
(please tick appropriate box)

Ref: DN/18

Post to: The Recruitment Section, Birmingham City Council, Education Department  
38-50 Orphanage Road, Edlington, Birmingham B24 9HL.



### Birmingham City Council

The City Council positively welcomes all applicants.  
In particular applications from minority ethnic groups and  
people with a disability will be welcomed as these groups  
are under-represented in this service.  
Job sharers welcome, no partner necessary.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Education Department - Community, Arts and Youth Service

### Resources Support Worker

- £8.46 per hour (inclusive)

6 hours per week from January until 31 March 1995

Applications are invited from Disabled people only  
(registered or unregistered) for the post of Resources  
Support Worker for six hours per week. Applicants must  
be willing to work either in the day or evening including  
some weekends. A good knowledge of audio-visual  
equipment and an ability to lift heavy equipment from  
ground level is essential.

This post is available from January until 31 March 1995  
initially.

Harrow Council has a positive approach towards  
employing more people with disabilities as they are  
under-represented within our organisation.

Further details and an application form are available from  
Karen Dimmock, Education Personnel Services, P.O. Box 22,  
Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2UW.  
Telephone 081 424 1755 (answerphone  
available outside office hours)

The closing date for receipt of application  
forms is Tuesday 13 December 1994.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER





## Health and Safety Officer

Manufacturing, Science and Finance is the trade union for skilled and professional people. MSF has members across a wide range of industries and service sectors including aerospace, engineering, the national health service, insurance, off-shore oil, pharmaceuticals, universities and food, drink and tobacco among others in roles such as technicians, engineers, health visitors, pharmacists, computer professionals, speech therapists, supervisors, and managers.

Health and Safety in the workplace are key issues for all MSF members and MSF is committed to raise standards and promote safe working practices.

MSF is seeking an energetic health and safety professional to support this work by:

- Development and implementation of support services and advice to members, workplace representatives, officials and staff across the whole range of health and safety and environmental issues.
- Development of policies and practices to raise standards of health and safety for MSF's members and employees.
- Development of MSF's position as a forward thinking campaigning union on health & safety and environmental issues.

The Health and Safety Officer will be based in London EC1 (nearest tube station the Angel).

- Are you a qualified and experienced professional practitioner in health and safety, up to date and active in ensuring legislation is understood and good practice described?
- Can you influence attitudes towards health & safety and environmental issues within your own organisation and in professional events nationally and in Europe?
- Are you pro-active, enthusiastic and keen to be successful?
- Can you communicate to best effect in all situations?

We offer a salary of £24,700 plus an attractive package of benefits.

Please contact Martin Goodson for an application form on 081-871 2100 or write to Park House, 64-66 Wandsworth Common North Side, London SW18 2SH. Closing date for applications is December 20 1994. MSF is striving to be an equal opportunities employer.



### Sheffield Law Centre

Woman Solicitor Salary S02 £18,894

We require a woman solicitor with three years (o.n.o.) post qualification experience. The post will concentrate on legal services for women in general and women with disabilities in particular. For job description and application form please telephone (0742) 731888.

Closing date for applications 23/12/94. Interview date 21/1/95. Applications from job sharers are welcome.

Sheffield Law Centre is committed to equal opportunities. This post however is advertised under s(7) (2) (e) of SDA 1976.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Scope 4. Finger 9. Area 10. Esther 11. Bolt 13. Reflection 15. Lido 16. Anthill 20. Guru 21. Eye 23. Sniper 24. Ash 25. Pelt 26. Enter 27. Tithed 28. Tyre  
DOWN: 1. Steering 2. Out of earshot 3. Everest 5. Nab 6. Ground 7. Eel 8. Rated 12. Killer 14. Oily 17. Nun 18. Hopped 19. Nettle 22. Every 24. Ant 25. Pet

### TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Water 2. Sagittarius 3. Maureen Connolly 4. Richard Branson 5. A jenny 6. David Coleman 7. He invented cat's eyes 8. Harold Wilson 9. The Jack normally faces to his right 10. James Fenimore Cooper

### Disability Now Subscription Rates

Individual at home address: one year, £10, two years, £19. Organisations/authorities: one year, £15, two years, £29. Overseas: one year, £20. Multiple copies: 2 copies, £24; 3 copies, £36; 4 copies, £48; 5 copies, £60; 6-9 copies £72; 10-50 copies, £100; 51-100 copies, £125. One year only.

## WE'RE ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE YOU'LL WANT TO JOIN US

Having a disability often has no bearing on your ability to carry out a job. And where it has, a little creative thinking in the provision of aids or adaptations can make a real difference.

At Barnardo's we're taking positive steps towards recruiting people with disabilities to the whole range of posts within our London Division. These include staff working directly with children and young people, Managers, Secretaries and Administrators.

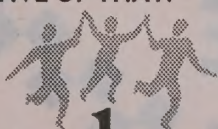
We guarantee that Registered/Registerable disabled candidates who meet the short-listing criteria for any of our posts will be interviewed.

People who are not disabled will only be considered if it proves impossible to find a suitable person with a disability.

Watch out for our regular advertisements in The Guardian, Community Care, The Voice, Care Weekly and local press.

Your application will be warmly welcomed.

**WE'RE ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE OF THAT.**



**Barnardos**  
LONDON

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

### THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF ORGANISATIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE

#### Development Co-ordinator

(£18,369 - £19,803) NJC Scale POD

BCODP is seeking a disabled person to implement its "Group" development strategy. The main task is to work with new and existing groups of disabled people to provide training and support to ensure that the groups develop and remain viable. In the first year you will run a pilot study in the West Midlands and make recommendations which will enable BCODP to launch a National Development Programme in 1995/96.

We are looking for a committed, self-motivated person who has a good foundation within the movement. You will be an effective communicator with analytical skills and management potential. The person appointed will ultimately head the National Project and manage/support a team of Development Workers.

This is an exciting challenge for a disabled person who wants to be involved in the movement at the national level. The post is offered on an initial two year contract and is based in our Derby office.

Further information (state if required in other formats) from BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby, DE24 8AA. Tel: 01332 295551. Minicom: 01332 295581. Fax: 01332 295580.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 4th January 1995.

BCODP is an equal opportunities employer.

Deadlines for Disability Now's January issue: booking by 9 December, camera ready artwork/copy by 13 December.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES IN DISABILITY NOW** please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.



## Exhibition Guides - Dialogue in the Dark (Temporary contract)

The South Bank Centre, Europe's largest centre for the arts, in association with the RNIB, is bringing the Dialogue in the Dark exhibition to London, its only UK venue. The installation gives visitors an experience of being guided through different environments, or spaces, in a total absence of light, where their non-visual senses especially touch, hearing and smell will be brought to the fore.

We are seeking people who are visually impaired to guide small groups of visitors through the installation. Working to a tight schedule, you must be able to adapt well to the artificial total blackness created in the exhibition and to sensitively and calmly manage members of the public and school groups. The installation is as much to do with dialogue as darkness, therefore your role is fundamental in ensuring that the groups you guide have a meaningful experience of the installation. You must be communicative and keen to interact with a wide variety of people, and where necessary reassure visitors, in this challenging environment.

You should have experience of working successfully in a team, have a confident, outgoing style and ideally have worked with the public or with small groups. Our guides will need physical stamina, good mobility and the mental robustness to react positively to the demands made on you by the public and the uniqueness of the installation itself. Guide dog owners are welcome to apply but dogs cannot be used in the exhibition itself.

We need 16 guides who will be employed on a temporary basis for a six week period during April and May 1995, with each guide working for 5 days over a 7 day roster. You will work for approximately 4 hours per day and the hourly rate of pay is £4.30 per hour, with enhanced rates for weekend working.

All applicants will be invited to a pre-interview symposium at the Royal Festival Hall to provide you with more information about the exhibition and the role of the guides and to answer your questions.

For further information and an application form, please contact Maria Hatton, Personnel Department, South Bank Centre, Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, or telephone 071-921 0659. Please specify whether you prefer print, braille, tape or floppy disk. Closing date for applications: Monday 19th December 1994.

*The South Bank Board welcomes applications from all sections of the Community regardless of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientations, disability or religious beliefs.*





Tony Southern lines up another title

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

# Hot shot Tony takes title

Tony Southern won his second successive national snooker title at Stirling, Scotland, in October.

The annual snooker championships, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD), attracted a field of over 60 top players from England, Scotland and Wales.

Southern, 25, from the North West team, won the

group four title by beating Tommy Turner, from the North, in an exciting final.

Turner started well, potting some superb long range shots, but Southern's wealth of experience told in the end.

Southern, who has now won six national BSAD titles, said: "That was a great match. I really enjoyed the game and thought Tommy played well."

Tony will be gunning for his seventh title next year and hopes to turn professional.

Scotland's Matt Duffy, 24, defended his group two crown and secured another trophy for making the highest break of the tournament.

Zena Latcham, chairperson of the Scottish Ladies Snooker Association, won the group three title, beating Robert Mease 2-1, while Tony Melia, from the North, captured the group one title.

The BSAD team trophy was shared by Scotland and the North, who both scored 29 points.



Pot black: Zena Latcham takes the group three title

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## Tennis first

The world's top eight players competed in the first Wheelchair Tennis Masters tournament at Eindhoven, Holland, last month.

Randy Snow, 35, from America, won the men's tournament, beating his 22-year-old compatriot, Steve Welch, 6-2, 6-4. "The Masters is very special," said Snow after his victory. "The atmosphere was absolutely electric."

The women's final was an all-Dutch affair. Monique Kalkman beat Chantal Vandierendonck 6-1, 6-4.

British number one Jayant Mistry was knocked out in the second round of the US Open by American Scott Douglas.

## Hooper's joy

Avon athlete Stephen Hooper has been selected to represent Britain at the Special Olympic Games in Connecticut, America, in July next year.

Hooper, from Weston-super-Mare, who won two gold medals at the 1994 National Athletics Championships, said: "I'm thrilled and can't wait to get over there."